

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

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MARRIAGES.

On the 11th February, at St. Peter's Church, Fleetwood, by the Rev. E. Reeve, M.A., GEORGE MACFARLANE GRAY, of the Board of Trade, Liverpool, only son of J. Macfarlane Gray, Esq., retired Chief Examiner of Engineers to the Board of Trade, to SARAH HARRIET, third daughter of the late W. P. RICHARDSON, Esq., J.P., Portrush, County Antrim, Ireland. [808]

At the Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on the 22nd March, 1897, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., MARGARET SLATER, to C. J. HOLLAND, of Shanghai.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 26th February arrived per M. M. steamer *Yangtse*, on the 28th March (30 days).

THE OPENING OF THE WEST RIVER.

With this issue we present our readers with a sketch map of the West River up to Wuchow-fu, showing the ports and way stations to be opened on 4th June next.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Imus, in Cavite province, Luzon, has been captured by the Spanish forces.

Tanda Sanzo, the Japanese who attempted to kill the present Czar, is reported to have starved himself to death in prison.

Sir Claude and Lady Macdonald, accompanied by Messrs. Grosvenor and Tours, arrived at Tientsin en passant for Korea on the 19th March.

Sir G. T. M. O'Brien, late Colonial Secretary, Hongkong, has been appointed Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

The prohibition of the export of rice from Kwangtung to Macao has been removed, in deference to the representations made by the Portuguese Consul at Canton.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held on the 25th March, when the Light Dues question was discussed.

Rear-Admiral F. V. Dubosoff, who was captain of the *Vladimir Monomach* in 1891, has hoisted his flag on the *Pamiat Azova* at Nagasaki. There are now three Russian Admirals in these waters.

The Japanese House of Peers has restored the amount of \$17,070,740 by which the Budget Committee proposed to reduce the vote for naval construction and the amounts originally proposed by the Government were passed.

According to Australian telegrams, the Admiralty has authorised the expenditure of £100,000 at Hongkong with the view of making the port a first-class naval base. This presumably covers the cost of the proposed new dock.

The *Japan Advertiser* states that the steamer *Carmarthenshire* is bringing out from New York as part of her cargo, eighteen locomotives for Japan. The locomotives are from the Baldwin, the Rogers, and the Pittsburg Locomotive Works.

The Court of Inquiry held in connection with the wreck of the steamer *Glamorganshire* on a voyage from Hongkong to Saigon has found that no blame attaches to the master, the rock on which the vessel struck not being marked on the chart.

The engines of the Laou Kung Mow Cotton Mill at Shanghai were started on the 22nd March. The occasion was made an interesting function, the two engines being christened respectively "Isabelle" and "Sophia" by Mrs. Dudgeon and Mrs. Anderson.

It is reported that some Chinese merchants have purchased a piece of land at Canton in the vicinity of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company's Wharf for the purpose of constructing a wharf for the accommodation of traffic between Wuchow and Canton.

The Hon. Martin Lister, British Resident of Negri Sembilan, died at Suez, on February 24th, while on his way home. Mr. Martin Lister was a son of the third Baron Ribblesdale, and was born in 1857. He was a brother of the present Baron Ribblesdale and was one of a rather considerable family. He came to the Far East a good many years ago, and was engaged in planting before he joined the Service.

Speaking at a meeting of the Japan Economic Society the other day, Marquis Ito said that though there was an outward appearance of peace, there was, metaphorically speaking, subterranean disturbance, and before long serious changes would occur. The captain of the *Japan-maru* must therefore steer his course very carefully. He expressed the hope that ruptures in the Government would be avoided, and that the Ministers would remain in office, as frequent changes did the country no good.

Various schemes for a permanent memorial of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Hongkong have been proposed, including a road round the island, a new clock tower and the completion of Her Majesty's statue, bath-houses for Europeans and Chinese, a school for European children, a College of Medicine, and a nursing institution in connection with the Government Civil Hospital.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 25th March says:—At a meeting held yesterday of the Directors of the Imperial Bank of China, the Power of Attorney to Mr. A. W. Maitland as Acting Chief Manager was duly signed. We learn also that the unallotted portion of the capital, Tls. 500,000, has been over-subscribed. Messrs. Johnson, Stokes and Master have been appointed solicitors to the new Bank.

At the meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board on Thursday a letter from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor, transmitting a copy of the regulations made by the Local Government Board for dealing with cholera, yellow fever, and plague at ports in the United Kingdom, was laid on the table. Mr. Chamberlain remarked that the Local Government Board had drawn his attention to the fact that these regulations show that a wide divergence exists between the practice as regards quarantine followed in certain colonies and the principles which the Board regard as suitable for effective dealing with the diseases referred to, with a view to preventing their spread, both on land and water.

A subsidised line of Danish steamers to the Far East is to be established. According to a Danish newspaper, there has just been started in Copenhagen the East Asiatic Trading Company with a capital of 3,500,000 kroner—about £175,000 sterling—with the object of building up Danish trade between the Free Port and the Far East. It is intended to build three steamers of 2,600 tons register for this trade, and these vessels have already been laid on the stocks. The ports of call will be at least one British port, besides one in the Mediterranean, Port Said, Suez, Aden, Colombo, Singapore, Hongkong, Bangkok (whenever necessary), Shanghai, and Canton. The new Company will pay the firm of Andersen & Co. of Bangkok the sum of one million kroner in stock (£50,000) for the incorporation of the firm into the new Company. The subsidy is to be £10,000 a year for five years.

The arrival in New York of the sailing ship *T. F. Oakes* after a voyage of over 260 days from Hongkong has satisfactorily solved what was being generally regarded in the shipping world as another tragic mystery of the sea. Messrs. Carlowitz & Co., the Shanghai agents, yesterday, says the *N. C. Daily News* of the 25th March, received a telegram stating that the ship had arrived at New York in distress, and full details of the prolonged voyage will be awaited with interest. The ship, 1,897 tons, was commanded by Captain Reed, and left Shanghai on the 17th of May last, for Hongkong, and sailed from there on the 4th of July for New York. Nothing more was heard of her until her arrival in New York, and the gravity of her position is indicated by the high premium at which she stood in the list of "overdue" and "missing" vessels. On the 27th of January she was reinsured at 40 guineas premium, and fortnight later at 60 guineas.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE AND THE PERMANENT MEMORIAL.

The Diamond Jubilee Committee have decided that the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign shall be celebrated by illuminations and fireworks, and also that there shall be some permanent memorial of the occasion. It would have been better, we think, if a public meeting had been called, in order to afford the community an opportunity of expressing its views as to the form the celebration should take. Amongst the European community the idea of illuminations and fireworks does not appear to be regarded with much favour. There seems to be a feeling that such a display means simply a waste of money that might be profitably expended in other directions. It must be admitted that as a general rule illuminations impress the mind of the populace, which is one of the objects of public celebrations; but possibly the same effect might be arrived at by other means. The Chinese, or, to be more correct, the leading Chinese, are, we understand, distinctly favourable to illuminations, fireworks, and processions, but no attempt is made to conceal the fact that the cost will be to a large extent levied on the food of the people, and the working classes if consulted would probably say they preferred not to pay in that way. The necessary funds will, as on former occasions, be obtained through the respective guilds, who will make a levy on their individual members, who in turn will raise the price of their wares to recoup themselves. The scandal which arose from this cause on the occasion of the visit of the DUKE and DUCHESS of CONNAUGHT will no doubt be present in the recollection of those who were resident in the colony at the time. As rice is now selling at about double what it did some years ago it seems rather hard on the poor that the price should be further enhanced to pay for an evening's illuminations. If there must be illuminations, however, we would suggest that an attempt should be made to produce a magnificent display in a circumscribed area, to focus the efforts of the community instead of allowing them to be diffused throughout the whole town, and that the financial arrangements should be such as to preclude anything in the nature of semi-compulsory levies on particular trades through the guilds.

In regard to the permanent memorial the committee invite suggestions from the public, and no doubt many fads and fancies will be submitted, but of really sensible and practical suggestions very few have been advanced so far. The enlargement of the City Hall, both as regards its accommodation for public assemblies and the library and museum, would appeal to a large number of the European community as a useful project, but it is open to the objection that even if the name "Diamond Jubilee Hall" were officially given to the enlarged building it would still popularly bear the name of "City Hall" and so would not in fact serve as a memorial of the event it is desired to commemorate. A road round the island has also been suggested, but that, though an eminently useful and desirable work, is hardly in keeping with the idea of a memorial. It was with great difficulty that an agreement was arrived at as to the memorial of the completion of the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign and it is probable the same difficulty will be experienced again. On that occasion a statue of the Queen was finally

decided upon, which, all things considered, was the best form the memorial could have taken, though it is to be regretted it was so indifferently carried out. On the present occasion the choice is more restricted, as we cannot have another statue, and it remains therefore for some one of fertile mind to suggest a scheme which will commend itself to the community as at once commemorative and useful.

II.

In a previous article we stated that the leading Chinese were in favour of processions in connection with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee festivities. We are given to understand that that is a mistake and that the general feeling is strongly against processions, on account of their cost, which is ultimately levied on the price of the wares of the respective guilds, including articles of food. In regard to illuminations the objection is not so strong, but we appear to have been misled in saying that the leading Chinese were distinctly in favour of them; their attitude seems to be rather one of indifference.

III.

In mentioning a few days ago the construction of a road round the island as one of the proposals for a permanent memorial of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign we expressed the opinion that while the work would be eminently useful and desirable on its own merits it would not be commemorative in character. Our opinion on the latter point has been traversed. It is pointed out that the Romans were in the habit of honouring celebrated persons by calling roads after them and that there are roads in existence at the present day which still perpetuate the memory of the persons after whom they were named more than twenty centuries ago, as for instance the Appian Way. So, it is urged, a road round the island, suitably named, would in the centuries to come perpetuate the memory of Her Majesty better than any of the other schemes that have been mentioned. We are glad to place the argument before our readers for consideration.

IV.

When the project of a road round the island, or rather along the coast as far as Stanley and then over the Wongneichong Gap, was discussed in connection with the Jubilee of Hongkong, a correspondent who took part in the discussion estimated that the whole cost would not exceed \$50,000. This appears to us to be much too low, as the road for a portion of its length beyond Belchers Bay would have to be cut out of the solid rock. It would conduce to an intelligent discussion of the project if the Governor would direct a rough estimate to be made by the Public Works department. The feeling in favour of making this road the permanent memorial of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee appears to be gaining ground amongst the European community. The more progressive section of the Chinese community seem to favour the College of Medicine project, but they admit that the road round the island would also be a good thing and that probably it would be used by the Chinese community for carriage exercise.

On the 25th March some excitement was caused in Queen's Road by the bursting of a water pipe opposite A-Tack's furniture store. New pipes are being laid and in uncovering the old ones an accident happened by which a breach was made in one of them, through which the water shot up in a large column higher than the houses. It was some ten minutes before the water was stopped.

THE CHINESE IMPORT TARIFF.

That an early attempt will be made to follow up Li HUNG-CHANG's recent effort to secure a revision of the Chinese tariff on imports cannot be doubted. Indeed, it is stated by Chinese that H. E. CHANG KANG-WOON, the Special Ambassador about to be despatched to England in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen VICTORIA, and who is to leave Shanghai on the 9th proximo *en route* for London, will be authorised to discuss with the Foreign Office the proposed revision of the import tariff. The Chinese Government always keeps an eye to the main chance, and when despatching a special envoy on a mission to felicitate the British sovereign on attaining an auspicious period of her rule, what more natural, with so eminently practical an official body as the Tsung-li Yamen, than the combination of business with ceremonial duties? The astute Ministers hope no doubt to catch Lord SALISBURY in a specially gracious and conciliatory mood on such an auspicious occasion! But they will find the British Premier as hard and practical as themselves when they come to business. The noble lord has, we trust, taken to heart some recent lessons in diplomacy taught by that clever Muscovite Count CASSINI, and however favourably inclined he may be to help China to an increased revenue, he will not be disposed to do it at the expense of the British merchant and trader. The Marquis of SALISBURY when conferring with Li HUNG-CHANG, while that astute personage was in England, distinctly informed the ex-Viceroy that he could promise nothing without first consulting the Chambers of Commerce in China. The noble lord has sagaciously recognised that the British commercial bodies on the spot are those at once most interested in developing trade and in safeguarding the privileges already enjoyed. This fact at least has now come to be thoroughly understood at the Foreign Office—that the import duty levied on foreign goods is by no means the entire weight of taxation the manufactures have to bear. The ingenuity of the Chinese provincial officials has multiplied the inland duties to such an extent that in some parts they have enhanced the cost of imports to a rate that is virtually prohibitive, and we may be sure that Lord SALISBURY will not lightly sanction a heavy increase in the import duties without some corresponding advantages. The London Chamber of Commerce has pronounced in favour of an increase of 2½ per cent. Customs and 2½ per cent. transit duty, or 5 per cent. altogether, raising the present *ad valorem* duty of 5 per cent. to a total duty of 10 per cent., which it considers the outside amount the trade can bear, and then only on condition that the payment of this amount will free the goods from all other duties whatsoever, and frank them from one end of the empire to the other. This view is shared in by the Chambers of Commerce in Hongkong and China and by the China Association, and they are by no means anxious to see the duties raised to that level even on the condition named. Not that they doubt that a large expansion in the volume of trade would result from such an arrangement but that they fear the Chinese will not keep faith and act honestly in the matter. The itch to squeeze is, they fear, too ineradicably engrained in the Chinese character to allow the mandarins to refrain from their time-honoured practices. *Experientia docet* is a maxim that does not apply to the Chinese apparently; they will

neither take warning from the lessons of the past nor apply the experience they have gained to the practice of the future. We have seen how, in the case of the tea industry, the steady yearly shrinkage of their trade went on in ever increasing ratio, and yet its final practical extinction, so far as Great Britain was concerned, could not induce the Government to modify the taxation on the leaf or the growers to improve their processes of cultivation and firing. The policy of killing the goose to get at the golden eggs is still fatuously pursued at Peking. The officials live in the present, and the people acquiesce in any exactions so long as they are not piled up quite to breaking point. The great question that China will be confronted with in this demand for a revision of the tariff must of course be the provision of a sufficient guarantee for the fulfilment of their pledge. CHANG YUN-WOON has presumably some scheme to formulate for the collection of the duties and for the apportionment of a certain proportion of the sum realised to the use of the provincial governments for the loss they would sustain by the abolition of their squeezes on the goods in transit. It will be interesting to see what shape his proposals will take.

THE HON. J. J. BELL-IRVING AND THE LIGHT DUES.

The public are entitled, we think, to some explanation from the Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING as to the attitude adopted by himself and his firm with reference to the proposed permanent taxation of shipping under the name of light dues. For more than half a century the firm of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., which has earned the appellation of "the Princely House," has been a leader of public opinion on commercial questions in the Far East, and more especially in this colony of Hongkong, with which it has been so closely identified from the very day the island passed under British rule. Before the foundation of the colony, indeed, the firm had urged the advisability of the annexation of Hongkong, and since that event took place the resident partners of the firm in a long succession have always been in the forefront in urging the maintenance of the absolute freedom of the port. It is therefore surprising to find Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. appearing as advocates of the taxation of shipping, and some declaration of the grounds on which this change of front has been made seems called for, provided there are any grounds that will bear discussion; if on the other hand the policy that strikes the public as so peculiar has its origin in a simple error the sooner the error is repaired the better. The facts of the case are these. In November last the Government referred to the unofficial members of Council a communication from the Chamber of Commerce asking for the abolition of the temporary dues imposed to cover the cost of the Gap Rock light, on the ground that a sum had been raised from that source more than sufficient to cover the object for which the dues were imposed. The unofficial members, with one dissentient (Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD), recommended that the dues should be made permanent. The Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING was not present at the meeting at which this decision was arrived at, but the senior unofficial member, in forwarding the decision to the Government, said: "In this we are joined by Mr. BELL-IRVING, who addressed a letter to me on the subject immediately before his departure." Subsequently a petition praying for the abolition of the dues was

addressed to the Governor by the shipping firms of the colony. The firm of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. was conspicuous by its absence from the list of signatories. The Hongkong Chamber of Commerce also addressed the Shanghai Chamber on the subject, and the committee of the latter body passed the following resolution:—"After careful consideration of the matter it was decided to reply that while fully recognising the principle that light dues should only be levied on shipping for lighthouse purposes the Chamber could not support any protest against the action of the Hongkong Government until they were in possession of full information as to the reasons which actuated the Government in levying the taxation complained of." We have on a former occasion expressed our opinion on this resolution and will not now attempt to characterise it as it deserves. The important point to observe in the present connection is that the Shanghai partner of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. was in the chair at the time the resolution was passed and it is impossible to resist the suspicion, in view of the action of the firm in Hongkong and of its Hongkong head, that the peculiar phraseology was due to Mr. ALFORD's engineering. The scene now shifts to London, where a petition on the light-dues question is presented to the Secretary of State for the Colonies by the steamship companies and firms trading to the Far East. The Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, which is under the management of Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., declines to sign the petition. The question is whether this common action of the firm or its representatives in London, Shanghai, and Hongkong is dictated by reasons of common sense or whether, as regards Shanghai and London, the intention has been merely to cover up an error into which the Hongkong representative was inadvertently betrayed. The question has an important bearing upon the position of the Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING as a public man, for it will be recollected that that gentleman is a member of the Executive Council and as such is supposed to protect the interests of the public in the secret conclaves of the Government. In directing the appointment of two unofficial members to the Executive Council the Secretary of State said the choice of such members should be inspired by consideration of personal merit and have no reference to the particular class or race to which the persons chosen belonged. When Mr. BELL-IRVING was selected there was a feeling that the spirit of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's instructions had not been complied with and that the selection had been made rather because Mr. BELL-IRVING was the representative of JARDINE, MATHESON & Co. than for any personal merit he possessed as a public man, for he had taken little active part in public affairs; and presumably the term "personal merit" must be taken to have some reference to public affairs and not merely to private character. Mr. BELL-IRVING's conduct in the matter of the light dues, if left unexplained, is certainly not calculated to strengthen the confidence of the public in him as one of their principal representatives.

There are two sailing vessels overdue at Shanghai, the *Ancona* and the *Saratoga*. The former left New York on the 19th August, and the latter the following day, both bound direct

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP AND THE LIGHT DUES.

At the meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association on the 25th March a declaration was made by Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP, on behalf of property owners in favour of the policy of imposing taxation on shipping in order to relieve landed property. As Mr. SHARP said, it seemed as if the case in favour of property was to go by default. Mr. SHARP accordingly came forward as the advocate of that side, and as the Hon. C. P. CHATER and the Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING were present and did not disclaim the views he advanced, it is to be presumed that they endorsed them. It is satisfactory to have both sides of the case fairly presented, and no one could have urged the claims of property more forcibly or eloquently than did Mr. SHARP. That gentleman speaks to the public, while the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Hongkong Land Investment Company sit in the Executive Council and possess the private ear of the Government. It cannot be said, therefore, that the case on behalf of property is inadequately represented. The shipping interest, on the other hand, has no spokesman in the Executive Council, and its case has therefore to be fought entirely in the open.

Mr. SHARP urges that shipping should bear its share of taxation as well as property and says that if ships do not like it they can pass by the colony. That is precisely what it is to be feared they will do if taxation is piled up on them; and once admit the principle that shipping is a legitimate object of taxation and there is no logical mark at which it can be said taxation ought to stop. Mr. SHARP's very frank declaration emphasises the danger to which the colony is exposed from the shortsighted selfishness of land owners. The tax is two-and-a-half cents a ton at present; when more money is required property owners will naturally urge the addition of another cent to the so-called light dues, and a Government in want of money for the maintenance of an extravagant service will be only too ready to draw on such a valuable milch-cow. By and by another cent will be required, and so it will go on until the burden becomes so heavy as to vitally affect the prosperity of the port. We have not very far to look to find examples that illustrate the folly of taxing shipping. Macao, Manila, and the French ports of Indo-China all tell the same tale, and their experience ought to strengthen the determination of the residents of Hongkong to maintain the freedom of the port, not merely from Customs dues, but from taxation upon shipping under other names. Better far would it be for landed property to assent to additional taxation, if more revenue is absolutely required, than to try to shift the burden on to shipping, which is the source from which property in Hongkong derives all the value it possesses. In proportion as shipping fails to come to the colony in the same proportion will property decline in value. As Mr. JACKSON says, we ought to do all we can to attract shipping instead of discouraging it. It is not only property owners and ship-owners who are interested in the dispute, but every man, woman, and child in the colony. Without shipping the colony would cease to exist. From the humble coolie to the merchant or professional man all the inhabitants are alike dependent, directly or indirectly, on shipping for their incomes. As to the argument that by imposing taxation upon

shipping you make the foreigner contribute his quota, it is simply a case of taking money out of the left pocket instead of the right; for foreigners are interested in property on shore as much as they are in property afloat. If Hongkong were a large producing centre the injury to be anticipated from the taxation of shipping would be proportionately less, but being dependent, as we are, entirely upon the facilities we are in a position to offer as an entrepôt of trade, a mere distributing centre, it is suicidal to attempt to lessen those facilities by the imposition of burdensome taxation. Mr. SHARP gave a lecture the other day on "Money: How to get and how to keep it." Hongkong has made its money in the past through the freedom of the port; to do away with that freedom is certainly not the way to keep it.

II.

Mr. GRANVILLE SHARP, by adopting in his letter published in another column the simile of the Red Lion, has completely given away his case on behalf of the taxation of shipping in Hongkong. As the landlord of the Red Lion is totally dependent upon his customers for his living so is Hongkong totally dependent upon its shipping. As the landlord of the Red Lion makes no charge for entrance to his inn so ought this colony to make no charge on shipping for entering the port. And the landlord of the Red Lion, if he is an up-to-date landlord, as we hope for Mr. SHARP's sake he is, not only admits his customers without payment of any entrance fee, but probably also provides a free lunch and free cigars. Even if he belongs to the old school he provides the "pillars of the bar" with light and warmth without charge. And yet the landlord of the Red Lion waxes fat. In Hongkong the shipping interest does not ask for anything in the nature of an equivalent to the free lunch and free cigars of the Red Lion; it only asks for freedom from taxation beyond what is required for the maintenance of the lights. If Hongkong like the landlord of the Red Lion is to wax fat it had better concede the request. It is somewhat peculiar to find Mr. SHARP going to the public house for an illustration, but having done so he must be held bound by it.

There is another point on which we must join issue with Mr. SHARP. At the meeting of the China Association on Thursday he quoted with approval the opinion of the late Hon. A. LISTER, Colonial Treasurer, to the effect that everything possible should be taxed in order to widen the basis and prevent our sinking under the weight. That is an antiquated, unsound, and unscientific view which must now be classed as a politico-economical heresy. The tendency of modern thought is towards the simplification of taxation and especially to avoid taxes on trade. In the abstract the "single tax" would be scientifically the best system, but in practice, owing to the various interests involved, it is impossible to subvert the existing system and throw the entire burden on to land with its complicated arrangements of landlord and tenant, rent and mortgage. But although we cannot go to the length of the "single tax" we can at least avoid imposing taxes that strike at the root of commercial prosperity. The idea of taxing everything belongs to the old and semi-barbarous days, when kings and feudal barons under pressure of financial necessity would clap a tax on the teeth of any likely capitalist, a Jew by preference, and if the amount demanded was not promptly forthcoming would proceed to have the teeth

extracted. All that has gone by the board and commercial nations now recognise that trade is to be attracted by measures not dissimilar in kind to those adopted by the landlord of the Red Lion. We would recommend to Mr. SHARP a little closer study of the internal economy of the hostelry.

MR. FRANCIS AND THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

The heavy indictment brought by Mr. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., against the Hongkong Branch of the China Association at the meeting on Thursday is not supported by the evidence. Mr. FRANCIS did not show that the Association had done anything it ought not to have done or that it had left undone anything it ought to have done, unless it be that it has worked quietly instead of noisily. Noise does not always imply effectiveness, and the more quietly such a body as the China Association can work, so long as it does what is required, the better. But Mr. FRANCIS says he wants to see something for his money. He himself has now been placed on the Committee and the general body of members will no doubt be interested in observing to what extent he succeeds in imparting more life to the Association and more animation to its proceedings. But it seems to us that the learned gentleman has formed an entirely erroneous conception of the scope and object of the Association. It was not formed for the purpose of carrying on any popular and noisy agitation by means of public meetings and so forth, but for the purpose of advising the Government as to the protection of British interests when such advice seems to be called for. It is not every day that subjects arise which call for action on the part of the Association; indeed, when things are going smoothly, and when the Government is doing all that is required of it, long intervals may elapse without any occasion arising for it to speak. The real object of the Association, it seems to us, is to serve as a bond of union between British subjects interested in the Far East in order to facilitate common and united action when occasion arises, and members who want to see something for their money all the time are likely to be disappointed. At present the Association when it has occasion to speak is listened to by the Government with respect; if its management fell into the hands of hot-headed agitators who tried to use it for party purposes its usefulness would be destroyed and its utterances would no longer command attention of the kind that is desired. The Committee last year did all, we think, that the members would have wished it to do or could reasonably expect. If meetings of the whole branch were held monthly or quarterly instead of annually we are afraid they would be but poorly attended. If a member at any time has any subject he wishes to urge on the attention of the Committee he can always address the Secretary, and if the Committee did not endorse his views and the member wished to press the matter further no doubt they would call a general meeting in order to take the sense of the whole of the members; but it is to be hoped no such case may arise, for contentiousness in the conduct of the Association should be avoided as far as possible.

About 12.15 on Saturday the ringing of the fire bell alleged that a fire had broken out in the Central district. The firemen promptly responded to the call, but there was no fire.

THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

There has lately been much talk in the colony about a proposal, emanating, we believe, from nowhere in particular, to send a detachment of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps to London to take part in the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. We doubt very much if such a suggestion came from the Home Government, and, assuming that we are right in that presumption and that the matter is being discussed in high quarters in Hongkong with a view to carrying out the suggestion, we should like to make one or two remarks upon it. As far as we can gather the invitations issued by the Secretary of State for the Colonies apply solely to the visit to England, as state guests, of the premiers of the self-governing colonies and those regular and volunteer forces which are of purely local origin and which have a special interest of their own in the country to which they belong. What does the Hongkong Volunteer Corps consist of? Can the officers and men claim that it is a "local product" which would fittingly represent a special and unique branch of the British Empire? For the most part the members of the Corps are young men recently out from England, and it would be a useless expenditure of money—no matter who pays—if a few of them were sent to London on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee. There would be just as much, or just as little, sense in sending a company of the West Yorkshire Regiment simply because they happen to be stationed in the colony during this memorable year. Suppose, in connection with the recent exhibition of Colonial products, Hongkong had, amongst the other things, sent a jar of Crosse and Blackwell's strawberry jam to England! We should have been laughed at. The absurdity is exactly on all fours with the idea of sending to London men attached to the Hongkong Volunteer Corps. Moreover, we have grave doubts, even supposing the suggestion were a good one, whether a thoroughly representative detachment could be sent. We know the difficulty there is in getting together a cricket team to send to Shanghai or Singapore, on account of the exigencies of business, and the difficulty of sending a detachment of volunteers to England would be proportionately greater. Again, we want to see in Hongkong a full muster of the whole Corps when we celebrate the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign. Not a single man should be absent on the festive occasion, for there is bound to be a great military display in the colony, and nothing will be more impressive and last longer in one's memory than the mobilisation of the whole fighting forces in the island. Such a display could be well given at the Happy Valley and we hope this idea will not be lost sight of by the sub-Committee who have been appointed to frame a general programme of arrangements. The Volunteer Corps is not so strong that we can afford to send any of its members to England. They would do no good there, but by remaining here they will considerably further the volunteer cause in Hongkong. A depletion in the ranks of either officers or men would simply throw back the good and effective work which the Corps is now doing.

The Manager of the Hongkong Branch of the Straits Insurance Co. Limited has received a telegram from his head office, Singapore, stating that the annual general meeting of the shareholders, held on 25th instant, passed off satisfactorily and the report and accounts were passed.

SPECIAL JURORS AND CAPITAL CRIMES.

According to the official returns sixteen persons were tried on charges of murder in the Supreme Court of Hongkong during the five years 1891-95, of whom six were convicted and ten acquitted. The returns for 1896 have not yet been published. In view of the above figures and the notorious reluctance of Hongkong special jurors to return a verdict that carries with it the death penalty the question presents itself whether, as regards this colony, it would not be advisable to abolish that penalty, in which case it may be supposed that the jurors would be undeterred by sentimental objections from returning a verdict in accordance with the evidence. It is certainly not to the advantage of the colony that so many murderers should be let loose upon it every year; and in the majority of cases it is not for want of evidence that they are not convicted, except in so far as Chinese evidence is as a rule of a less reliable character than European evidence. In the case of all minor crimes, however, Chinese evidence is accepted and acted upon, and to say that it shall not be acted upon in capital crimes is equivalent to granting immunity to the crime of murder. This colony of course would not be allowed to act upon its own motion in interfering with the law as to the death penalty; we must be guided in such matters by the policy of the mother country, and there is little prospect, and, we may add, little desirability, of an alteration of the law as to capital punishment in England; but as regards this colony it would seem that owing to the peculiar views entertained by special jurors the retention of the death penalty is calculated rather to encourage than to repress the crime of murder, as the chances are always at least two to one that the murderer, if brought to trial, will secure an acquittal. The verdict returned in the case decided on Wednesday last was an insult to the intelligence of the community and has excited amongst the Chinese great contempt for British justice. The accused man said himself, in the presence of European witnesses, that he had killed the woman, put the body in the box, and corded it up, but the jury nevertheless let him off. And yet they are men who in all ordinary affairs would be classed as exceptionally intelligent.

THE QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

The new quarantine regulations issued by the Local Government Board, a *precis* of which we published in Saturday's issue, establish medical inspection in lieu of quarantine, which has now become, so far as the United Kingdom is concerned, a thing of the past. The Secretary of State, in forwarding the regulations, draws attention to the divergence of the regulations in force in the colonies from those deemed necessary at home. It is to be hoped that Mr. Chamberlain will use his influence and authority to secure uniformity in this matter throughout the Empire so far as local circumstances permit; and it is only in matters of detail that there need be any variation. The self-governing colonies must of course be left to do what they think right, but at least in the Crown Colonies the authority of the Home Government might advantageously be used in this matter. It seems outrageous that colonies like Singapore and Malta, for instance, should be allowed to continue a system founded only on ignorance and

prejudice. The vexatious and altogether unnecessary prolongation of quarantine at Singapore in respect of arrivals from Hongkong during the plague years will be fresh in the recollection of our readers.

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

ILLUMINATIONS AND FIREWORKS.

A meeting of the Committee appointed by His Excellency the Governor to make arrangements for celebrating the completion of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign was held on Tuesday (23rd March) in the Council Chamber. Hon. C. P. Chater was voted to the chair, Mr. T. Jackson was appointed hon. treasurer, and Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, hon. secretary. The sense of the meeting was then taken as to whether, in addition to ordinary celebrations, such as illuminations and fireworks, the completion of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign should be celebrated by some permanent memorial. The Committee was unanimously in favour of a permanent memorial and it was decided that the hon. secretary should issue a notice inviting any member of the community who had any suggestion to offer to forward it to the hon. secretary, so that the Committee might consider any suggestions made. It was decided to issue the notice at once and to give the community a week in which to send in any suggestions. Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. A. Coxon were appointed a sub-Committee to draft an address to the Queen, and Hon. C. P. Chater, Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Hon. F. H. May, and Mr. R. M. Gray were appointed a sub-Committee to draft a programme of general arrangements for the celebration locally, such as the illuminations, fireworks, &c.

THE CHIEF JUSTICE AND THE DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

Surprise has been expressed in some quarters that Sir John Carrington, Chief Justice, has not been placed on the Diamond Jubilee Committee. The explanation is simple and, we think, sufficient. As on the occasion of the celebration of the completion of the fiftieth year of Her Majesty's reign, so on the present occasion, it was felt that the arrangements should be placed in the hands of a committee composed of unofficial representatives of the whole community instead of one largely composed of the paid servants of Her Majesty. Exceptions, however, had to be made in favour of those officials whose active co-operation was essential, the Surveyor-General being added to the committee in 1887 in order to secure his advice and assistance in connection with the decorations without having to solicit it through regular official channels, with their delay and possible friction, and the Registrar-General in order to secure his assistance and influence in communicating with the Chinese community. The holders of the same offices have been again appointed, and, in view of the experience gained on the last occasion, it has been deemed advisable to add the Captain Superintendent of Police, but with these exceptions the committee is entirely unofficial in its composition.

HONGKONG'S REPRESENTATIVES AT THE MILITARY DISPLAY.

In connection with the Diamond Jubilee arrangements are being made, we believe, for the sending to London of a number of lukongs and Indian constables to represent the Hongkong Asiatic police force, and it is also probable that some of the European members of the force at present on leave will be asked to proceed to London for the celebrations. Detachments of the Hongkong Regiment and the Chinese submarine miners will also be sent. It has also been suggested, we are informed, that members and ex-members of the Volunteer Corps at present at home should attend the celebrations, and also that a detachment should be sent from Hongkong. We have spoken about the latter proposal elsewhere. In regard to the former we hope before a decision is arrived at that the difficulty of communicating with members on leave or in residence in England will be thoroughly discussed together with the

absolute necessity for a course of drill to be undertaken by representatives.

A ROAD ROUND THE ISLAND SUGGESTED.

The following letter is being circulated by Mr. Gershom Stewart for signature.

Hongkong, March, 1897.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart.

SIR,—In reply to your advertisement asking for suggestions in regard to a permanent memorial for the Diamond Jubilee of H.M. the Queen, we, the undersigned, would earnestly bring to your consideration, and that of the Government, the desirability of having a road at or about sea-level round the entire island.

The advantages accruing from a road of this sort are such as to warrant a large outlay, which could be spread over a number of years if necessary, but the commencement of the first section, we think, would be a very suitable step to take on such an auspicious occasion as the present.

The road would be a permanent memorial of the event which we celebrate this year by the name which would be given to it, such as:

"THE VICTORIA JUBILEE ROAD,"

or

"DIAMOND JUBILEE ROAD."

The road would be unique and, as far as we know, there would be nothing similar to it in the world, the configuration of the island lending itself most effectively to the purpose.

It would further be of value as a defensive instrument in the event of our island ever being attacked, as the possibility of an armoured train or armoured motor cars is one which would render the landing of a hostile force practically impossible.

The road opens up possibilities of some relief to the present congested state of the north side of the island by rendering it possible for people to settle at Tytam or Cape d'Aguilar or elsewhere, and at any rate it brings within the power of everyone to enjoy the refreshing breezes of the South-west monsoon, which would be accessible to all by improved means of locomotion.

Compelled as we are to live our lives on a small island such as this, it is difficult to say too much in favour of the change, recreation, and beneficial exercise which a road of this sort would place at the disposal of everyone.

The bicycle, largely used by all classes of the community, both Foreign and Chinese, would bring the hitherto unexplored beauties of our island within reach of everybody. It would be a new and glorious addition to the walks of the pedestrian. It would be a splendid road for riding, and being available for jinrickshas would be a boon to those who are unable to enjoy active bodily exercise themselves.

It would further unite our Queen's name with the work if the mileage round the island were counted from Her Majesty's statue instead of as at present from the Clock Tower. Inevitable changes in the town may cause the removal of the Tower to some other and more prominent position, but the statue will in all probability remain on its present site as long as the colony exists.

We sincerely hope that the opportunity which now offers itself for commencing the magnificent work will not be thrown away. We are, &c.

The letter drafted by Mr. Gershom Stewart recommending the construction of a road round the island, or part of the island, as the permanent memorial of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, is lying for signature at Messrs. Kelly & Walsh's. The original letter as already published has been modified to the extent of saying, after the words "round the entire island," "at any rate along the south side of it." By utilizing the present road through the valley past the Brick and Cement Works one could get to Deep Bay with about six miles of new road, and to Stanley with perhaps two more. The existing road would answer to Tytam-tuk, and the next generation could complete the whole if they liked to do so. Great differences of opinion appear to exist as to the cost of such a road. We have heard \$30,000 a mile estimated, and on good authority, but while the cost might come up to that figure on some sections it would certainly be much less on others. Mr. Stewart, we understand, estimates that \$100,000 would

long way towards the completion of the whole work. The interest on this sum at 4 per cent. the rate the colony pays on its loan would be \$3,500 a year. It is urged that if, as would surely happen, Chinese rest houses and tea gardens were to spring up, a fair revenue would come in from carriages and rickshaws and the road would not be a costly luxury at all. When Chinese have the chance of driving at Singapore, Shanghai and Penang, it is further pointed out, they do it freely, and why not here?

THE COMPLETION OF THE QUEEN'S STATUE AND A NEW CLOCK TOWER SUGGESTED.

The following letter has been forwarded to us for publication—

Hongkong, 29th March, 1897.

Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, Hon. Secretary, The Queen's Memorial.

Dear Sir,—In response to the invitation of your Committee for suggestions as to what form the Permanent Memorial to Her Majesty should take in this colony I beg to offer the following—

First—Finish the Jubilee Statue of Her Majesty.

To do this I suggest that the bronze statue should be gilded, and as an instance of a bronze statue under a canopy, being gilded I refer you to the Albert Memorial in Kensington Gardens. The four corner bronzes should also be fixed, and these in my opinion should be four rampant lions defending the statue of Her Majesty, as the pedestals are too small for anything in the nature of groups of figures. A low ornamental wrought-iron railing should also be fixed round the top step of the base.

These additions would transform the appearance of the monument entirely, which at present is anything but pleasing, and if this opportunity of completing it is not taken advantage of it may remain a very long time in its present unfinished condition.

The cost would not be large and might come out of the general subscription fund.

Second—As a permanent memorial of the present occasion, I beg to suggest that a really fine Clock Tower, with a good clock and bell, should be built at a suitable point on the new Praya Reclamation, where it could be seen and heard from any part of the city as well as the harbour. This would not only be a permanent and suitable form of monument to commemorate the occasion but would also fill a real want and add to the general appearance of the city front.

I would propose that it should be built at Pedder's Wharf and could be placed clear of the Praya so as not to obstruct the traffic, and the lower portion could be designed to form an arch leading to the wharf. A stone describing the object for which the tower was erected could be built in and the clock should be illuminated so as to be seen by night as well as by day.

The present clock tower has become so surrounded by high buildings that it can no longer be seen from anywhere, neither are the dials sufficiently large nor the bell sufficiently powerful to be seen or heard at any distance, and the tower has become a considerable obstruction to the traffic.

This proposed new Clock Tower might well, I think, be built out of the public funds, as it would be useful alike to all classes in the colony. The cost would also be quite small compared to some of the schemes which I have heard discussed, such as the purchase and enlarging of the City Hall, a road round the island, or the building and endowing of a College of Medicine, none of which could be carried out under a very large sum, nor would they be so general in character to all classes nor appropriate in form as a good public Clock Tower.—I am, dear sir, yours truly,

R. K. LEIGH.

A correspondent writes—Among other projects for a permanent memorial of the Diamond Jubilee is one that may be said to possess some claims to consideration. This is the removal of the present Clock Tower from its position at the junction of Pedder Street with Queen's Road, and its re-erection on a larger scale on the new Praya by the new Pedder's Wharf. The existing Clock Tower, standing in the very centre of the city, was for many years of the great-

est service to the inhabitants and to the seafaring population, but the erection of the new building of the Hongkong Hotel has considerably lessened its utility by dwarfing its modest proportions and obscuring the clock. A plan exists for the re-erection of the tower on an improved design and to an altitude of some 200 feet that would make it, as in former years, the most salient object on the city face from the harbour. The removal of the Clock Tower from its present position would, moreover, prevent some congestion in the traffic besides giving greater air and breathing space in a most central locality, where it will be still more needed when the Reclamation places the Queen's Road further from the shore. The new Tower might include chimes for the clock and it could be named the Victoria Tower.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS.

The following letters have been addressed to the Editor of the *Daily Press*—

Dear Sir,—As a permanent memorial of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria's Jubilee Reign, I beg to suggest the following—

1.—A Diamond College of Medicine for Chinese. I need not dwell upon the benefits of such an institution. China's millions are sorely in need of men and women trained in Western medicine, surgery, and midwifery. In future days who will not bless the founders of this grand institution? I say it will be a magnificent memorial, and one that the colony should be proud to possess.

2.—A Diamond Scholarship. This scholarship should be an annual one, and would be an inducement to the ambitious youths of our colleges and schools. The fund or endowment should be large enough to enable the lucky recipient to pursue his studies in England. It is clear that the poor aspiring scholars of the colony need encouragement and support, as the matter has been so often voiced in the local papers.

I have not suggested universities or industrial academies, as the colony appears to be too small for such grand institutions. And another thing, wealthy people would rather send their children to Europe for an advanced education. As for the needs of the colony, I believe the existing colleges and schools are quite ample—

Yours truly,

T.

Hongkong, 26th March, 1897.

Sir—As the Committee of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee are in favour of some permanent memorial, I would suggest that a large sum of money should be set apart from the Fund to be raised and that a scholarship should be established. From that scholarship every three years a boy of any nationality from the public school should be sent to England for further study there of any useful science. The advantage of the scholarship should not be restricted to one particular nationality, but be open to the Chinese, the Portuguese, or European boys. I think the above suggestion will be a fitting permanent memorial to celebrate the completion of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign.—Yours faithfully,

H. K.

Canton, 26th March, 1897.

Dear Sir,—Of the many suggestions made those that up to the present have been most noisily advocated are—

- (1) A road round the Island.
- (2) New site for the V.R.C. both house and a Pavilion for the new Recreation Ground at the Happy Valley.
- (3) Medical College for Chinese.

As you and your contemporary the *China Mail* very properly point out, the road round the Island is purely a Government matter. A road can hardly be said to be a suitable memorial, moreover, taking the Praya Reclamation, Central Market, and projected new Government Buildings as object lessons, it would be ten years before the road would be completed, by which time it would be more significant than any other road and "bikes" would be replaced by flying machines.

The members of the V.R.C. and New Athletic Club cannot expect buildings to be put up for their exclusive use by the Government any more than the Stewards of the Jockey Club would be

justified in requesting the Government to hand over a piece of land for the erection of a new stand and stables. The V.R.C. are certainly entitled to a new site for their bathhouse and boat house. It has been virtually promised them twice by the present Governor and will not be a mistake not by his predecessor also. The building of such a site, however, should form a part of the celebration memorial scheme.

With regard to the Medical College for Chinese, pray what have the Chinese got to do with the Queen's record reign? With the exception of a mere handful they are (as you rightly stated in a leading article the other day) perfectly indifferent. I believe I am right in saying that our Queen is English and that this is an English colony notwithstanding what the Hon. H. Stewart Lockhart may say to the contrary, well then for goodness sake let us have something that is going to benefit the subjects of our Queen, for preference those subjects who have made the Empire. I mean those who can boast of English, Scotch, Irish, or Welsh parentage. I would suggest what in my opinion is the greatest want in this colony. A proper school at the Peak for European boys and girls only, with accommodation for boarders as well as day scholars. At the present rate of exchange it is impossible for many parents to send their children to England; besides many naturally like to have their offspring near them. We all know how apt children are who have not seen their parents for years to lose touch with them, and their affection once lost is never quite regained. Let the school be called, if you like, the Victoria Diamond Jubilee Grammar School and be under the control of a Board with the Governor of the colony as Chairman. Chinese children not to be admitted. The Celestial has a peculiar train of thought which is apt to taint intimate social and business contact with Chinese if carried on for a period of years will undermine almost any character. With regard to half castes, Portuguese, Parsees, Jews, Armenians, and other semi-Asiatic children, let the admission of such be subject to a poll by the Board. The school should charge moderate fees and be endowed by the Government.

I feel sure that the parents of British children, not only in Hongkong but in all the Treaty ports of China, would bless such a Jubilee Memorial as the one suggested.—I am dear sir, yours truly,

PATER.

Hongkong, 28th March 1897.

Dear Sir,—Permit me, through the medium of your paper, to protest against the tenor of "Pater's" letter in your issue of this morning. I consider it unnecessary to enter into details, but it is just the "Pater's" type, ever on the alert to create dissension, that is a disgrace in a cosmopolitan community. If "Pater" will be good enough to inform me who are the ratepayers of Hongkong, and what is a half-caste, he will be doing me a very great favour indeed.—Yours faithfully,

L. H. P.

Hongkong, 29th March, 1897.

SUPREME COURT

22nd March.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

LI PANG AND U ONUK SAM T. YEUNG MIN SHAN. In this case the plaintiffs claimed from the defendant the sum of \$13,888.88 for services rendered.

Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Ewens), appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Mr. Hastings) represented the defendant.

His Lordship delivered the following written judgment—

The plaintiffs claimed from the defendant payment of the sum of Pounds 10,000, equivalent to \$13,888.88, being the amount agreed to be paid by the defendant to the plaintiffs in accordance with a judgment dated the 9th November 1896, rendered between the plaintiffs and the defendant, in his answer the defendant avowed that thing,

that the agreement was void in law on the ground of maintenance and champerty. The case was heard on the 23rd February and the 1st and 2nd March, 1897. On the conclusion of the plaintiffs' case the question of law raised in the pleadings as to the effect of the agreement on which the suit was brought was argued, and it was agreed that this question should be decided before the defendant's case was opened. For the purposes of this decision, therefore, it must be taken that the facts stated by the plaintiffs, both of whom gave evidence, and the witness Li Sing who was called on their behalf, are well proved.

It will be convenient in the first place to state briefly the circumstances under which the agreement between the parties came to be made; next, to consider the effect of the agreement; and, lastly, to ascertain whether or not it falls within the operation of the rules of law relating to maintenance and champerty.

In facts of the case are simple in themselves. It appears that a man named Yeong Chiu was the owner of considerable leasehold property in Hongkong. It is alleged that the annual value of the property was about \$50,000. The defendant, who was a member of the Yeong family, was, during the lifetime of Yeong Chiu, rent collector of the property. Yeong Chiu died about 20 years ago, and the property passed into the hands of an executor, Yeong Shui Lun. The defendant continued to act as rent collector during the period of Yeong Shui Lun's administration or at any rate until within a year or two of its termination. It is not clear what remuneration he actually received for his services, but towards the end of Yeong Shui Lun's time he seems to have conceived that, on moral, if not on legal, grounds, he was entitled to some special remuneration for his trouble in connection with the management of the rents of the property. It is said that Yeong Shui Lun promised to give him something, but not as much as he thought he ought to have. Accordingly in June, 1893, he saw the plaintiffs and requested them to use their good offices with Yeong Shui Lun—whom they both knew—to secure for him the remuneration for which he was pressing. He brought with him and showed to the plaintiffs the powers of attorney relating to the property which he held from Yeong Chiu and Yeong Shui Lun respectively. There was no stipulation made on this occasion between the parties as to any compensation being made to the plaintiffs for their trouble in the event of their being successful in their efforts on the defendant's behalf. The plaintiffs acceded to the defendant's request, and from June, 1893, down to the time of Yeong Shui Lun's death in July, 1895, they had interviews from time to time with him in relation to this matter. They did not, however, succeed in obtaining anything from him. On his death the property passed into the hands of his executor, Yeong Chiu Ngam. It is not clear whether the services of the defendant as rent collector of the property were dispensed with by Yeong Shui Lun or by Yeong Chiu Ngam; at any rate he was dismissed soon after the latter assumed charge of the property. After the death of Yeong Shui Lun the plaintiffs took no further action in respect of the commission which they had undertaken until the month of November, 1895. At that time the defendant came to them and requested them to renew their endeavours on his behalf by seeing Yeong Chiu Ngam about the remuneration which he claimed. The plaintiffs said that they were willing to do so, but that an express agreement for the purpose must be drawn up. Accordingly an agreement was prepared in the Chinese language by one Pang Kun Chi, and the parties then went with it to the office of Mr. Ho Wyson, the solicitor. It was there explained to them by a Chinese clerk of Mr. Ho Wyson's, and was then executed. This was on the 9th November, 1895. The translation of the agreement reads as follows:

The parties making this Agreement are Li Pang, U Chuk Sam, and Yeung Ming Shan. Whereas Yeung Ming Shan has under the powers given me by Yeung Shui Lun managed his property and rents in Hongkong for upwards of 30 years and according to the reckoning the amount due for commission is about \$100,000. And whereas after the death of

Yeung Shui Lun his younger brother has refused to pay me accordingly and I Yeung Ming Shan have no strength to quarrel with him. And whereas I Yeung Ming Shan have requested both Li Pang and U Chuk Sam to compromise the matter for me and to recover the claim. Now therefore I hereby hand over a Power of Attorney to Li Pang and other person(s) so that they may exert themselves to recover my claim for me or they may compromise the matter as circumstance will permit. As regards Court fees and lawyers' expenses they will be all paid and attended to by Yeung Ming Shan and will not concern Li Pang and other person(s). If by our united strength in the prosecution of the claim we have obtained any money the said Yeung Ming Shan is willing to take back 80 per cent. and to willingly give the remaining 20 per cent. to Li Pang and U Chuk Sam for their use by way of remuneration for their services and labour. However, this case will either have to be brought into the Court for trial or settled amicably between the parties, but no matter what amount we are entitled to receive we must discuss the matter thoroughly before we come to any settlement. If a settlement is secretly made I Yeung Ming Shan am willing to pay in full both Li Pang and U Chuk Sam for their use the whole or a less amount of the commission that can be recovered as mentioned in this Agreement. I Yeung Ming Shan will say nothing to the contrary. This is definitely settled and agreed to in the presence of three of us and shall be acted upon.

This Agreement is not obtained by force or fraud or anything of the kind. Fearing that words of mouth may not be evidence this Agreement is specially made, each party to hold thereof as proof.

Witness:

Pang Kun Shi.

Kwong Sui, 21st year 9 moon 23rd day (9.11.95).

Agreement made by

YEUNG MING SHAN.

(His true handwriting.)

The power of attorney mentioned in the agreement was the power from Yeong Shui Lun to the defendant empowering the latter to collect the rents of the property. It was left in the custody of Mr. Ho Wyson, who gave the plaintiff Li Pang a receipt for it.

It is not necessary to inquire what was done either by the plaintiffs or by the defendant in pursuance of or in connection with the agreement, because the question raised by the defendant as to its validity in point of law must first be determined. For the purposes of this determination I proceed to consider and state what is, in my judgment, the meaning and effect of the agreement. There is, no doubt, some difficulty in placing a construction upon the document in consequence of its uncouth phraseology, due, I suppose, to the difficulty of converting Chinese idioms into English, but we must get over this difficulty in the best way we can, and try to apprehend the intention of the parties as evidenced by the instrument which they used to give it expression. The recitals are clear enough. Their purport is that the defendant was entitled to a commission of about \$100,000 for the management of the property and its rents, that Yeong Chiu Ngam had refused to pay him that commission and he "had no strength to quarrel with him," and that he had therefore requested the plaintiffs "to compromise the matter for him and to recover the claim." These recitals seem in substance to mean that the defendant, having failed or being unable to enforce his claim himself, placed the further prosecution of it in the hands of the plaintiffs. The actual stipulations of the agreement are in part in accordance with this view and in part contemplate the continuance by the defendant of his own efforts in conjunction with the plaintiffs. It is stated in more than one place that the claim was to be made good in one of two ways, that is, either by legal proceedings or by a compromise between the parties. It was ingeniously argued by Mr. Francis for the plaintiffs that the true construction is that the plaintiffs were to undertake the work of effecting the compromise only and were to have no concern with the legal proceedings which were contemplated as possible. In support of this conten-

tion he referred to the stipulation that Court fees and lawyers' expenses were to be all paid and attended to by the defendant and would not concern the plaintiffs. But I think this clause was merely inserted for the protection of the plaintiffs from any pecuniary liability, while carrying on the prosecution of the claim. In other words they were willing and engaged themselves to assist the defendant in the litigation, if litigation became necessary, but they guarded themselves from being called on to pay any of the fees and expenses required for the purposes of that litigation. I am unable, therefore, to see any real ground for the contention that the agreement provides for a severance of functions such as that suggested, between the parties. I take its effect to be that the parties bound themselves to support one another to the utmost of their power in the enforcement of the claim, by amicable and, if necessary, by hostile methods. Then there is the important stipulation that if by the "united strength" of the parties any portion of the claim is recovered, the defendant is to have 80 per cent. of the amount so recovered and the plaintiffs are to receive the other 20 per cent. "by way of remuneration for their services and labour." It is further provided that this remuneration is to be payable to the plaintiffs in the event of the defendant making a secret settlement of the claim.

This, then, is, in my opinion, the purpose and effect of the agreement. It remains to consider whether the agreement is void as infringing on the rules of law directed against maintenance and champerty.

This head of the law, which seems for a long time to have been regarded as obsolete, has in recent years undergone considerable discussion in several important cases and especially in the case of *Bradlaugh v. Newdegate*, L.R. 11 Q.B.D. 1, where the cases are collected and reviewed in the elaborate judgment of Lord Coleridge, L.C.J. In *Russell on Crimes and Misdemeanors*, vol. 1, p. 477, the offences of maintenance and champerty are thus described:—"Maintenance seems to signify an unlawful taking in hand or upholding of quarrels or sides, to the disturbance or hindrance of common right. This may be where a person assists another in his pretensions to lands, by taking or holding the possession of them for him by force or subtlety, or where a person stirs up quarrels and suits in relation to matters where in he is in no way concerned, or it may be where a person officiously intermeddles in a suit depending in a court of justice, and in no way belonging to him, by assisting either party with money, or otherwise, in the prosecution or defence of such suit. Where there is no contract to have part of the thing in suit, the party so intermeddling is said to be guilty of maintenance generally; but if the party stipulate to have part of the thing in suit, his offence is called champerty." And on p. 482 of the same volume it is added:—"Champerty is a species of maintenance, being a bargain with a plaintiff or defendant, *campum partem*, to divide the land or other matter sued for between them, if they prevail at law, whereupon the champertor is to carry on the party's suit at his own expense. It is defined in the old books to be, the unlawful maintenance of a suit, in consideration of some bargain to have part of the thing in dispute or some profit out of it." The ground on which these rules of law rest is thus explained by Lord Esher, M.R., in *Alabaster v. Harness*, [1895] 1 Q.B. 842:—"The doctrine of maintenance, which appears in the Year Books, does not appear to me to be founded so much on general principles of right and wrong or of natural justice as on considerations of public policy. I do not know that, apart from any specific law on the subject, there would necessarily be anything wrong in assisting another man in his litigation. But it seems to have been thought that litigation might be increased in a way that would be mischievous to the public interest if it could be encouraged and assisted by persons who would not be responsible for the consequences if it were unsuccessful."

It will be observed that the passage quoted above from Sir William Russell is not in accordance with maintenance and champerty being punishable on indictment. But this is no authority for saying that for this purpose

in addition, the law goes somewhat further by way of invalidating agreements savouring of this character. In *Reynell v. Sprye*, 1 D. M. and G. 677, Knight Bruce, L. J. said: "Such an understanding, such an agreement may or may not have amounted strictly in point of law to champerty or maintenance, so as to constitute a punishable offence, but must in my judgment be considered clearly against the policy of the law, clearly mischievous, clearly such as a Court of Equity ought to discourage and relieve against." This view is adopted by Romer, J., in *Rees v. De Bernardy*, [1896] 2 Ch. 446. He says: "It is not necessary in cases of this kind, in order that the agreement should be held void, that it should amount strictly in point of law to champerty or maintenance so as to constitute a punishable offence."

It will, I think, be apparent that, if I have correctly set forth the effect of the agreement made between the parties in this case, that agreement falls within the above-stated rules of law and is void as being in the nature of champerty. This conclusion is strengthened by an examination of the cases cited by Mr. Robinson in the course of his argument for the defendant, such as *Stanly v. Jones*, 5 M. & P. 193, *Sprye v. Porter*, 7 E. & B. 58, and *Hutley v. Hutley*, L. R. 8 Q. B. 112, which go to support this view. But the case on which the defence most relied, and in my opinion properly relied, is the very recent one of *Rees v. De Bernardy*, [1896] 2 Ch. 437. In that case the facts were as follows:—William Howells died intestate, having considerable real estate and leaving Mrs. Walters and Mrs. York his co-heiresses-at-law. De Bernardy, who was a next of kin agent, having ascertained the heirship of Mrs. Walters and Mrs. York induced them to sign an agreement whereby, in consideration of his revealing to them the existence of the property and their title to it (of both of which circumstances they were wholly unaware) they agreed to give him one-half of the net amount of the property, that is to say, one-half after deducting the costs of recovering it, it being stipulated that such costs should not, in their case, exceed £40. This agreement, it was said in argument by counsel for the plaintiffs in the case, was skilfully drawn by De Bernardy in the terms of the first count in *Sprye v. Porter*, *supra*. The judge, however, found, on the evidence before him, that the agreement did not set forth the whole of the arrangement between De Bernardy and Mrs. Walters and Mrs. York, and that he had at the same time verbally arranged to recover the property for them, and had induced them to employ his solicitor to act for them in the matter. The property was in the hands of the public trustee in New Zealand, and the title of Mrs. Walters and Mrs. York, was clear, and no litigation was contemplated. A portion of the proceeds of the property was received and divided on the terms of the agreement. On the death of Mrs. Walters and Mrs. York, their executors brought an action against De Bernardy to have the agreement set aside and cancelled. The plaintiffs impeached the agreement on several grounds, the principal being that it was against the policy of the law and amounted to maintenance and champerty. Mr. Justice Romer upheld the plaintiffs' contention and ordered that the documents embodying the agreement should be cancelled and delivered up to them. It is true that he also held that the transaction could not stand on the other grounds on which it was attacked by the plaintiffs. Inasmuch as the decision in favour of the plaintiffs was in the first place rested on one of these other grounds, it was suggested by Mr. Francis, in his argument for the plaintiffs, that it was unnecessary for the learned judge to decide the question as to the effect upon the transaction of the doctrines relating to champerty, and that therefore his decision on that point could not be regarded as authoritative. But I am unable to admit the force of this contention. It appears to me that the learned judge, having decided the case on one of the other grounds, might have said that it was therefore unnecessary for him to deal with the question of champerty, but as he thought fit to base his decision in favour of the plaintiffs on that ground also, I am of opinion that that decision is to the full as binding as the decision on the first point.

With reference to the question whether legal proceedings are probable or are contemplated by the party setting up the agreement, Mr. Justice Romer makes the following observations:—"But then it is urged on behalf of the defendant that in the present case the agreement came to was not contrary to the policy of the law because the property was in the hands of a public trustee, and no hostile proceedings to recover it were necessary. But, in my opinion, in a case of this kind the agreement is not the less contrary to the policy of the law because the property is in the hands of trustees or in Court, and no hostile action may be necessary to recover it, though, perhaps, the criminal offence of champerty may not have been committed." And he refers to the cases of *Strange v. Brennan*, 15 Sim. 346 and *Sprye v. Porter*, *supra*, as supporting this view.

In the present case the sum alleged by the defendant as commission had been claimed from private persons who had refused to recognize the claim, and the agreement made between the parties clearly contemplated the probability of legal proceedings being taken to enforce the claim.

It was said also that the present case is distinguishable from the case of *Rees v. De Bernardy* because in that case the defendant went to the women with whom he made the agreement, while in this case the defendant of his own accord went to the plaintiffs and invited their co-operation. But it appears to me that the question for determination is not how the contract came to be made but what was its effect when it was made.

Nor do I think it makes any difference that in this case under consideration, De Bernardy was to recover the property claimed by his own unaided efforts, while in the present instance the plaintiffs were to co-operate with the defendant in recovering the amount claimed.

On a consideration of the doctrines of law and of the cases to which I have referred, I arrive at the conclusion that the agreement on which the plaintiffs sue is void as amounting to champerty, and the suit therefore fails. The result is that judgment must be entered for the defendant, with costs of suit. Against these costs, however, must be set off the plaintiffs' costs on the *de bene esse* examination of Yeong Chiu-ngam. The defendant must bear his own costs of that examination. I have already on a previous occasion indicated the reasons for this qualification of the general order as to costs.

24th March.

IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE ALLEGED MURDER IN A BOARDING HOUSE.

The trial was resumed of Chui Kwai on a charge of murdering his wife in the Ki Shang boarding house, 48, Praya Central, on the 14th March.

At the conclusion of the case for the prosecution Mr. Francis called a witness for the defence. This witness was a sorceress living at Yaumati and she stated that the deceased woman visited her one day and witness predicted that the woman would commit suicide within three days. Witness did not tell the police in order to prevent the suicide. The God of Fortune had revealed the woman's destiny in response to witness's prayers.

This concluded the whole case and Mr. Francis said that the prisoner desired to make a statement, but his Lordship ruled, on the authority of a recent case in England, that the prisoner could not make a statement after having called a witness.

Mr. Francis, in addressing the jury for the defence, said the positive facts for them to deal with were that this woman was found in a box and that her throat was cut. It was possible on the medical evidence that she was killed by the prisoner, or that she was killed by someone else totally unconnected with the prisoner, or that she cut her own throat. And it was also a question for the jury to consider whether it was reasonably possible or probable, considering the shape of the weapon

put forward by the prosecution as being the instrument from which the woman met her death, that the chopper, with its big handle and shape of blade, was such as could have produced such a wound in the throat by some other person than the woman herself. The fact that the woman had her throat cut and that her body was found in the box did not follow in any logical connection. It was possible she might have had her throat cut by someone else and that that person had hidden her body in the box. He did not say it was more probable. The probabilities appeared to be that as this woman's body was found in the box in the prisoner's room, of which he had the key, therefore he must be the person who put it there. Counsel admitted that. But because he stowed her away in the box—assuming that was so, although there was no evidence—did it follow that he was the person who put her to death? It was possible that the woman might have been murdered by someone else, or that she might have committed suicide, and that the prisoner on going into the room and finding the body and seeing there was no explanation might have taken fright and feared that he might be charged with the offence and so put the body in the box and mopped up all the traces of blood in order to smuggle the body out of the colony. There had been in the history of crime many instances in which men of position, men of intelligence, men of education, had, on finding a body in their presence, lost control of themselves and so acted in a manner which told heavily against them. If such things had occurred in England among intelligent men, what might not reasonably and fairly be thought of a Chinaman, ignorant, superstitious, and unacquainted with the English law or its method of administration, filled with the idea that he was found in his own house with a dead body? Was there any serious difficulty in imagining that that man might have awakened and found his dead wife lying at his side and had got such a fright that he put her body in the box instead of doing what he ought to have done—to have rushed down and called the police? There was nothing to show that the woman was not murdered by some other person who had climbed over the partition or had entered by the door, and the jury had to remember that, according to one witness, the deceased woman was once visited by a man other than the prisoner. The case had been chucked before the jury with what seemed to counsel most indecent haste and without any adequate inquiry on the part of the Crown or of the police. There was not a tittle of evidence to show that this far-famed police of ours examined the room for bloodstains on the partition or on the floor, &c. There was a heap of rubbish tossed in court; half of it had not been identified, and there was not a tittle of scientific evidence to show that the stains were stains of blood. Counsel had never read or heard of a case which had been so recklessly and carelessly thrown before this or any other court. In regard to the deposit receipts Counsel submitted that the fact that they were found in the prisoner's possession did not show that he was guilty of her death, as it was quite possible that he was given the notes to put into his wallet with the other family money as soon as the woman received the notes. Nor did it follow that because the prisoner's garments were stained therefore he killed the woman, as he might easily have stained his garments when lifting the body from the floor or from the bed. Counsel suggested that the woman committed suicide and that the prediction of the sorceress affected the woman's mind. Speaking of what were called the confessions of guilt made by the prisoner, counsel pointed out that the prisoner spoke the Sun Hing dialect and that the Chinese constable had said that 50 per cent. of that dialect could not be understood by a Cantonese speaker, so that what he said would in part be incomprehensible to the European and Chinese witnesses. But even supposing that the statements were accurately recorded, it did not necessarily follow that they were true, and on this point counsel quoted from Taylor on the subject of confessions of crime. The Attorney-General replied and said the idea of suicide was absurd. In regard to the confessions made by the prisoner, the jury had the testimony of Inspector Stanton, who had passed the highest examination in Chinese and

was one of the most intelligent and reliable officers in the force, and he had distinctly sworn that he perfectly understood what the prisoner had said. The prisoner had full opportunity before the Magistrate to deny having made the confessions, and he could have then said that the woman had committed suicide.

His Lordship, in summing up, referred to the story of the sorceress and asked the jury to consider whether her evidence was not given just to suit the circumstances of the case that had since arisen. He thought it was likely that a woman to whom such a prediction was made would falsify the prediction by not committing suicide. The jury had also to consider, having regard to all the circumstances of the case, whether there was reasonable ground to arrive at the decision that someone other than the prisoner could have entered the room in the way suggested by the defence. There was no suggestion that any property was stolen and no suggestion of revenge, so that the jury had to consider whether that theory was reasonable and probable. The defence had great difficulty in explaining the bruises on the wrist and arm, which the doctor had said were caused before death. His Lordship thought the jury could come to no other conclusion than that the prisoner was the person who put the body in the trunk, as no other person could have had the means and opportunity and time to deal with the body in that way and to have locked and corded the box and put the blood-stained things in it. When the police found the body in the box one would have thought that that was the time for the prisoner to speak if he himself had found the woman dead. The jury would consider whether the prisoner would not have said "Yes, there is the body; it is my wife and I was trying to get her away. I found her murdered or found she had killed herself, and I thought I would get her away as I was frightened." But nothing of that kind was said; on the contrary, he made a statement. The Crown suggested that the chopper was the weapon used by the prisoner, and the defence was that the wound could not have been inflicted by the chopper. The jury would find that its edge was exceedingly keen. It was, of course, strange if he used that weapon that the wound was not a more serious one. It was evident that the weapon was not used with any very great force. It was possible that his hand might have been stayed; he might have been seized with pity and so decided not to cut the woman's head half off as was ordinarily done by murderers. In regard to the statement made by the prisoner to Inspector Stanton the jury would have to consider whether the prisoner did not think he would make a clean breast of it, seeing the body, the blood-stained clothing, and the knife. Inspector Stanton was a skilled Chinese scholar and was it likely he would speak without foundation on the point? If the Inspector could not understand the prisoner how could he have known what was perfectly true, that the prisoner and the woman came here by the *Rio de Janeiro* on the 19th February? His Lordship, after dealing with one or two other matters, then directed the jury to consider their verdict.

The jury retired at 5.20 and returned into court twenty-seven minutes later.

The foreman announced that the jury were unanimous in returning a verdict of not guilty.

This verdict created considerable surprise in Court and when the prisoner was told he was free he hesitated somewhat before leaving the dock.

A Portuguese boy was walking at the side of his bicycle in Queen's Road East on Saturday afternoon when a ricksha, which was coming in the same direction, collided with the bicycle and the front wheel was smashed. The cyclist caught hold of the coolie and took him to the police station, and on Monday, at the Police Court, the complainant tried to prove gross carelessness on the part of the coolie. It was not quite clear from the evidence how and where the accident happened and as no negligence was proved the Magistrate discharged the coolie and said the complainant could take a civil action if he liked. Mr. K. W. Mounsey appeared for the ricksha coolie.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION.

MEETING OF THE HONGKONG BRANCH.

IMPORTANT SPEECHES.

On the 25th March the annual meeting of the member of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held in the Chamber of Commerce room, City Hall, on Thursday, 25th March, 1897. Mr. T. Jackson presided and there were also present Hons. C. P. Chater, J. J. Bell-Irving, T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. F. Henderson (Secretary), E. W. Mitchell, G. Sharp, G. C. Anderson, G. Murray Bain, D. E. Brown, G. C. Cox, V. H. Deacon, H. L. Denny, J. J. Francis, Q.C., D. Gillies, R. M. Gray, H. M. Hillier, W. G. Humphreys, J. H. Lewis, E. Osborne, R. L. Richardson, W. J. Saunders, H. Smith, G. Stewart, G. T. Veitch, and R. C. Wilcox.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, before asking you to pass the report I would like to make a few remarks. Since our report was printed we have received the gratifying news officially of the opening of the West River, and Sir Claude Macdonald is to be very heartily congratulated on terminating negotiations which have spread over a great number of years, while the Chinese Government must also be congratulated on recognising the desirability of opening that important waterway to the commerce of the world. Let us hope it will be only the precursor of other and more important concessions and that when the time comes for our soldier diplomatist, Sir Claude Macdonald, to leave Peking he will be able to exemplify the beautiful line, "Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war." (Applause.) In connection with the West River I take this opportunity of trying to do justice to Mr. Fraser, our Consul at Canton. We are all aware that by treaty we were allowed to send goods by river under transit pass, but what the Chinese gave with one hand they took away with the other. The obstruction, the squeezes, the charges, the difficulties that they placed in the way of our availing ourselves of that clause in the treaty were such that British merchants could not ship goods under it. But Mr. Fraser was not the sort of man to allow that state of things to continue. He invited British merchants to send goods to Wuchowfu and he said he would see that the clauses of the treaty were carried out and no injustice done to the merchants. You all remember the difficulties Mr. John Andrew had to overcome in the early part of the year, but now goods are shipped under transit pass and there is no other impost. I think that is a very satisfactory statement, and Mr. Fraser deserves the thanks not only of the China Association, but of the community generally. (Applause.) Referring to the Association, we have, I am afraid, not done quite as much as was expected. (Hear, hear.) At the same time I do not admit that we have put our light under a bushel or that we have hidden our talent in the ground. We have interfered in connection with several bodies, and got in close touch with various bodies, and that is a strong point. If the members would keep the Committee advised on different subjects and the Committee kept the Foreign Office advised everything would go smoothly. I would just like to read the opinion formed of the Society by no less an authority than Mr. George Nathaniel Curzon. Mr. Curzon, speaking at the banquet given to Li Hung-chang in London, said that "the China Association was a happy and a potent link between the Far East and the West; for it united those whose interests and capital were engaged in those remote parts of the world with those of us who might be doing different things, but who, nevertheless, felt a cognate interest in the same country and in the subjects at home. The China Association had earned the confidence of the Governments both of Great Britain and of China. They regarded in the Foreign Office the views of that Association with respect, and they not infrequently invited it to aid them, and the presence of his Excellency there that evening was a proof that the Association had acquired for itself a similar consideration and a similar estimate in Government circles in Peking." Well, gentlemen, I have not the slightest

doubt or hesitation in saying that the China Association taken as a whole, mainly in connection with London, is a potent power. There was some Society of the kind required, and I must say that the Secretary in London, Mr. Gundry, has performed his duties most admirably. He has gained the complete confidence not only of the Colonial Office, but of the Foreign Office, and he is very frequently applied to for his opinion on points connected with trade and all sorts of communications are made with him. We were asked our opinion about that very important matter, the import duties. I am glad to say there was a complete consensus of opinion about that subject, and that we were in accord with the Association in Shanghai, the Chamber of Commerce in Hongkong, the Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai, and with the London Association and the London Chamber of Commerce. There are no two ideas about the fact that it would be desirable to increase the duties if you can make one charge answer for all and put a custom chop on a box and so free it to go all over the Empire without further charge. The Foreign Office has the fullest information that it can possibly get. The matter is in the firm hands of Lord Salisbury, and there we are quite prepared to leave it. (Applause.) Another matter that we have discussed to a certain extent is the light dues. I do not want to pledge my colleagues, as I know some of them differ from me, but I am glad to give you my own opinion. When I was in the Legislative Council here about twelve years ago the funds of the colony were low and they were going to get up a spirit farm. That would have been an atrocious nuisance. Steamers would have been examined to see if they had spirits on board, an excise officer would have been continually on board, and ships would have been delayed. On that occasion several gentlemen and I got up a petition to stop this spirit farm and I am glad we were successful. In the debate that took place I said shipping is the life and soul of Hongkong and instead of doing anything to worry shipping or to keep it out we ought, metaphorically speaking, to place a siren at each entrance to the harbour to entice shipping into it. (Hear, hear.) I am glad to say that the Chamber of Commerce is a very healthy and useful institution here and I have never known it, during my long residence here, more vigorously worked than it is at present. As it embraces everything we have to do you may say, "What is the use of the China Association?" I say the more cosmopolitan the Chamber of Commerce becomes the more necessity is there for the China Association to focus British opinion. (Applause.) I am perfectly sure that we should be appealed to not only by the Foreign Office but by the Colonial Office on matters on which they would not think of appealing to a cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce. Now there is a little matter in connection with the subscription. We thought of making the China Association more popular by reducing the subscription to \$5. I am quite ready to admit that that is quite enough for what the members get out of it. But our suggestion was not welcomed at home. The subscription is a guinea at home and they want to establish all branches of the Association on the same footing. Members of the Hongkong Branch are entitled to all the privileges of the London Association and vice versa, and so the subscription for this year will be one guinea. I hope no one will leave the Association on account of this. Now we have heard a great deal about competition with British trade. There are bounties on shipping, bounties on sugar, and bounties on all sorts of things, and you may ask yourselves, "What will be the result to British commerce?" My own impression is that we have planted our foot firmly on the rock of free trade. There we will remain, and these demands made on the principle of robbing Peter to pay Paul will be swept away like the morning mist by the rising sun. (Applause.) I feel convinced that we shall hold our own. I am reminded of the remark of a celebrated statesman who was on his dying bed, and being much perturbed about the future of his country he exclaimed "Oh, my country, a friend of his standing by said "Depend upon

England is only true to herself she will be on the Day of Judgment. That gentleman is true. How is she to be true to herself? Why the China Association be true to itself and take as its motto "Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might." (Applause.) With these few remarks I beg to propose the adoption of the report.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP—In rising to second the adoption of the report, there is one clause in it, appendix E, to which the chair has briefly alluded and on which I think a few remarks might fairly be made. There has been a great deal written and said on this matter of the taxes upon shipping. They have been called "light dues." Perhaps that is a misnomer, perhaps that is not the name by which they should in future be called, but simply the tax upon shipping. We have as yet, however, heard one side only, and the other side seems to me greatly in danger of positively going by default. There has not been one word that I know of spoken or written on the other side, but there has been an everlasting cry from beginning to end of "A free port, a free port, a free port!" What did Commissioner Elliott mean by a free port in 1843? Was it in allusion to lighthouses or to taxes upon shipping? Not in the slightest. It was a promise and an undertaking that there should be in Hongkong no Custom duties and that has been in the main observed. To that we can attribute fairly and reasonably the prosperity of the place. The question appears to be 2½ cents per ton or absolute exemption. The London shipping companies, who have written to Mr. Chamberlain recommend exemption and that is the opinion of those who have written and spoken authoritatively upon the subject.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Not at all.

The CHAIRMAN—Would you mind repeating what you said, Mr. Sharp?

MR. SHARP—What is advocated appears to be exemption.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—No, quite wrong.

MR. SHARP—That is what is claimed by the shipping companies. I have their letter here in which they recommend—

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Quite wrong.

The CHAIRMAN—Order!

MR. SHARP—They recommend the wisdom of entire exemption and positive freedom. Here is the letter signed by all the shipping companies in London. Very well, they take up the line of questioning the authority and position of those upon the other side. I do not think there is much argument in it. They refer to "the natural bias of their views." Now what is the natural bias of the views of the shipping proprietors? Is it not freedom for shipping? And the natural bias of property owners would be freedom for property. Mr. Chairman, I am not at all sure whether a man can be a good authority upon any subject he discusses if he has not some interest in the matter. Then, again, the London shipping owners say that 1½ cents is to be devoted to objects entirely unconnected with shipping. Now is that true? Is there any money publicly spent in Hongkong which is wholly unconnected with shipping? I think none at all, hardly. The taxation of the colony is for the benefit of the colony and for the benefit of everyone by whom the colony is frequented. In 1843, when the free port was promised, there were not only no customs, but there were no taxes. There were no expenses in those days, but since that time we have had enormous demands made upon us by the home Government for contributions towards the military protection of the colony. We have had enormous demands for municipal and sanitary matters; we have had to contract loans and now we have interest to pay. Are not all these matters connected together? Is the shipping unconnected with these things? Are ships merely like the kites and birds which visit us in the cold season and go away in the warm weather? Have they no interest here whatever? Are they wholly separate? Are they distinct? If so, the imposition can be entirely removed, because all they have to do is to stay away. They cannot stay there is unreasonable injustice in the matter, because they need not submit to it. On the other hand, are they closely identified, are they deeply interested, are they interwoven in the

life of the colony? Is the shipping part and parcel of the place? If that is so, each has its rights, and I say that inseparable from these rights is responsibility. You cannot have rights without responsibility. If they partake of the privileges of the colony they are bound to contribute to its support. They say they are afloat and therefore they ought not to be taxed. On the same principle railway companies in England might apply for exemption from taxation because their trains run on a line because they are in Exeter one day and in London another, and therefore you cannot tax locomotive plant. Travellers might say just the same thing. They might say, "We come to Hongkong, we are visitors and not residents. Put the expenses upon the Hongkong Hotel boarders, a not upon the visitors. We spend money in the shops, and we come to a free port, therefore give us free lodgings!" (Laughter.) Why not? I think just as readily. And the banks too. Are they not indispensable to the colony? Why should they not be exempt from taxation? I think they might equally be. I have just gone into a rough little estimate of what 2½ cents per ton amounts to. I calculate—I shall be open to correction, in fact, it would be interesting to ask the assistance of the Harbour Master as to what 2½ cents amounts to upon the value of these vessels during the time they are occupying a station in the harbour. I estimate it amounts to one-fifth part of that which is charged for property on shore. The property upon Pedder's Wharf pays 13½ per cent. at Kowloon Point a little less. Should not property in the harbour which lies between be taxed to a somewhat proportionate degree? Surely if it is only one-fifth of the tax on property on shore it is an extremely light tax. What do ships get? Do they get anything? They get water, they get coal, they get stores, they get docking accommodation, they get refitting, and they get hospital accommodation and medical advice. They get banking facilities, they get all the advantages of a civilized port, and they get protection, which in former years they did not get when there were no taxes. We do not have piracies—ships being taken by pirates. Where is piracy now? It is dead and gone. Are not the ships to pay something for all these things. At present in Shanghai the dredging of the river is a very serious affair. By and by it will become a matter of dredging our harbour, and what is to be said of the millions of tons of steamer ashes and of ballast which have been thrown by the mercantile marine into the harbour, and which by and by will have to be taken out? Are the ships to pay nothing? Mr. Lister, when he was Colonial Treasurer, said he was exceedingly jealous of any property being exempt from taxation. He said we must tax everything we possibly can in order to widen the basis. Taxation in Hongkong is unquestionably a very grievous burden and if the basis were to be narrowed it would be insupportable. It must be widened and broadened so that we may not sink under the weight. It is no use for shippers to say, "We are independent of the port, and the port to say, "We are independent of shipping." There is no independence at all. We are mutually dependent. The hand cannot say to the foot, "I have no need of thee." And so it is with us. The one is dependent upon the other. There must be a mutual arrangement and each side must bear its real and proper share. One is necessary to the other, and I trust, Mr. Chairman, that the matter will be more fully and carefully discussed, and with less prejudice than it has been. In fact it is manifest from the letters which have been written and the answers which have been received that there is an amount of prejudice, there is an amount of—may I call it—un-enlightened selfishness. We may all fairly be selfish in degree, but we must not forget that the shipping has as much interest in Hongkong as Hongkong has in the shipping. With these remarks I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report, notwithstanding its position in regard to the 2½ cents per ton, because I feel we are greatly indebted to the Committee of the China Association, and the amount of work that is done by the Committee gratuitously and heartily.

ily is beyond all praise. (Applause.)
MR. GRANVILLE SHARP—There is one matter I should like to ask with reference to the report. As I was looking at the minutes of the Committee I noticed that Mr. Shaw and Mr. Barwell and Mr. Bird have been absent from the colony. Have any additions been made to the Committee during the year?

The CHAIRMAN—No, none.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP—The positions of the absent members have not been filled?

The CHAIRMAN—No.

MR. GRANVILLE SHARP—In connection with the light dues, there is what seems to me to be a very serious omission if the case is fully represented in this report, that is, that a group of the document or memorandum that was forwarded by the shipping houses is not in the report, the covering letter only is given, the petitioning letter being entirely omitted. I think that is an omission that ought to be explained, especially when we consider that the majority of the members of the Committee are opposed to it, as their expressed opinions are concerned to the views which two of them who are members of the mercantile and shipping community have taken. That is a very grave omission and ought to be explained. As to the observations just made by Mr. Sharp, I am sorry to say it is the least successful speech I have heard him make. Ninety-nine cases out of a hundred he talks sound common sense, but this time he has not. What would he think if he went into a store in London, sat down on a chair, and was then asked to pay a portion of the rent for the place he had occupied? (Laughter.) He proposes that the ships should pay for the dredging of the harbour. A man might as well ask one of his customers to pay for the sweeping up of the waste paper that he threw about his store. The ships are our principal customers. Mr. Sharp says they are wired to go away. Then what is to become of us, and of him, and his valuable property? (Laughter.) As Mr. Jackson has said, it would be worth our while to pay them to come here. Every ship that passes through means a certain amount of profit to this colony, and the expense of providing for them should be paid by those who make the profits. I should like to say a word now about the Association. I am dissatisfied with being a nonentity in this Association and with getting nothing but this report at the end of the year. The China Association at home is a very powerful institution. At Shanghai it is powerful and effective, but this branch of the China Association has consisted of these three or four gentlemen and nobody or anything else. It is not worth while to pay \$10 a year for being a member of such an Association. Let the Committee invite communications from members; let them circulate the papers to ascertain the views of members and not make the same mistake as those who in the capacity of unofficial members misrepresent the views of the community. I do not understand how an Association of this nature can be of any real advantage when the opinions expressed are not so far as can be ascertained, the opinions of the community or the members of the Association, but the personal opinions of the members of the Committee. Consider, gentlemen, that so far as I am concerned, this report the Hongkong branch of the China Association has originated nothing. They have been set in motion by others. They have been set in motion so far as these light dues are concerned. If they had not been set in motion by the shipping interests in Hongkong they would have done nothing. I certainly must say that if the present system of carrying on the work of the Association is to be continued, I for one shall cease to be a member. It is not a question of a subscription of \$5 or \$10, it is a question of doing useful practical work, and the opinion of those gentlemen, I feel here, is just as well worthy of representation as the opinions of any gentleman. I repeat the same and they do not do their duty as representatives of the Committee if they do not endeavour to ascertain the views of the members before they put them in writing. (Applause.)
The CHAIRMAN—In answer to the first question, it was quite an oversight that the petitioning letter and if it was not for the fact that it certainly will be, Mr. Shaw, Barwell, and Bird, I quite agree with a great deal of what

...about the meetings and in my opening remarks I said we had left undone many things which we ought to have done. That I quite admit. I also agree with him that if the Association is to be active for good it must be more lively than it has been in the past. I shall be very glad if a good strong Committee is appointed to carry out the views of Mr. Francis, and I hope they will appoint a gentleman as Chairman who has more leisure and is fonder of politics than I. Any energy I have I devote to the little place next door. (Laughter) I shall be very glad to serve on the Committee, but I would rather the choice of Chairman fell on someone else.

The resolution adopting the report was then put and carried.

The election of the Committee was then proceeded with.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Before proceeding to elect a Committee would it be desirable for the members of the China Association to nominate the Chairman or would it be better to leave it to the Committee?

The CHAIRMAN—On the last occasion the Committee nominated their own Chairman.

The following was the result of the ballot for the Committee, the names being given in alphabetical order.—Messrs. J. J. Bell-Irving, C. P. Chater, J. J. Francis, F. Henderson, T. Jackson, E. W. Mitchell, H. Smith, and T. H. Whitehead.

The proceedings then terminated.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

The following correspondence has been forwarded to us for publication:—

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SENIOR UN-OFFICIAL MEMBER.

Hongkong, 20th March, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to forward for the information of yourself and your colleagues in the Legislative Council the enclosed copy of a despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the Ordinance dealing with the military contribution.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM ROBINSON.

The Honourable C. P. Chater, &c. &c.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO THE GOVERNOR.

Downing Street,
12th February, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that Her Majesty will not be advised to exercise Her power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 21 of 1896 of the Legislature of Hongkong entitled "An Ordinance to appropriate a sum equivalent to seventeen and a half per centum of the Colonial Revenues as a contribution for the defence of the Colony," a transcript of which accompanied your despatch No. 295 of 30th December last.

I have to request that you will convey to the unofficial members of the Legislative Council my regret that the Ordinance was submitted to them before the receipt of my despatch in answer to their memorandum, enclosed in your despatch No. 225 of the 23rd September, 1896.

I have, &c.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor Sir W. Robinson, K.C.M.G., &c. &c.

THE SENIOR UNOFFICIAL MEMBER TO THE GOVERNOR.

Victoria Buildings,
Hongkong, 26th March, 1897.

SIR,—I have to thank you for your letter of the 20th inst., which I have circulated among my colleagues.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

C. P. CHATER.

His Excellency Sir William Robinson, &c.

The Tientsin correspondent of the *Mercury* writes:—News has reached us from Shantung that the Yellow River has burst its eastern bank below Tainanfu, and Chang-Chuihuen and Chuitzen are all under water. The latter is an exceptionally busy place, especially for the silk trade, and much loss is expected to follow the overflow of the treacherous river.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The annual dinner was held on Saturday evening last at the Hongkong Club and upwards of fifty were present. The Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, President of the Club, was in the chair. During the evening the President announced that for specially useful play in the Rugby games were to be presented to Lieutenants A. D. H. Grayson, R.A., M. D. Wood, W. Y. R., C. W. Gordon, W. Y. R., and Mr. A. C. Paddy; for specially good play in the Association games badges were to be presented to Messrs. H. W. Looker (Captain), H. Pinckney, and E. H. Beasley. A presentation was also made to Mr. F. Brown, as a mark of appreciation on the part of the members for his services to the Club as Honorary Secretary for the past three years. The evening was most successful, and the speeches and songs contributed to make the function of an unusually entertaining and pleasant character. The following was the programme:—

Toast The Queen.
Song Lieut. A. D. H. Grayson, R.A.
Toast The Hongkong Football Club.
Proposed by Commander Sir R. K. Arbuthnot, R.N.
Responder—Mr. H. W. Looker, Capt. Assoc.
Song Mr. D. K. Sliman.
Toast Other Football Clubs in Hongkong.
Proposed by the Chairman.
Responders—Mr. J. M. Steel, H.M.S. *Cerberus*.
Lieut. T. N. Howard, W.Y.R.
Song Mr. C. H. Grace.
Toast Our Guests.
Proposed by Mr. G. H. Potts, Capt. Rugby.
Responders—Lieut. T. L. Shelford, R.N.
Mr. J. McKie.
Song Lieut. A. D. H. Grayson, R.A.
Toast The Chairman.
Proposed by Mr. E. F. Mackay.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held at the offices on the 25th March. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided and there were also present—Hon. F. H. May (Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. Ayres (Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clarke (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. Hugh McGallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

QUARANTINE REGULATIONS.

The following letter, accompanied by the quarantine regulations, was laid on the table:—
Downing Street, 24th January, 1897.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit to you for the information of your Government copies of regulations which have been signed by the Local Government Board for dealing with cholera, yellow fever, and plague at ports in the United Kingdom.

The Local Government Board have drawn my attention to the fact that these regulations show that a wide divergence exists between the practice as regards quarantine followed in certain colonies and the principles which the Board regard as suitable for effective dealing with the diseases referred to, with a view to preventing their spread, both on land and water.—I have the honour to be, etc.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

A return from Bombay showed that between February 6th and February 20th, inclusive, there were 1,769 cases of plague and 1,802 deaths. From February 20th to March 3rd, inclusive, there were 1,283 cases and 1,198 deaths, giving a death rate of 93.5 among the patients.

SMALLPOX AT HYOGO.

From February 22nd to March 7th, inclusive, there were 54 cases of smallpox in Hyogo and 29 deaths.

ENTERIC FEVER.

The Colonial Secretary forwarded to the Board Dr. R. Bruce Low's report to the Local Government Board, on recent outbreaks of enteric fever at Kesingland, in the rural district of Muford and Lotheringland, Suffolk.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 18th March the death rate was 218.3, as compared with 301.4 for the corresponding week of last year. For the week ended 20th March the death rate was 15.8, as compared with 23.4 for the corresponding period of last year.

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

The Honorary Treasurer of the Indian Famine Relief Fund begs to acknowledge receipt of the undernoted subscriptions:—

Already acknowledged	\$48,531.53
Banque de l'Indo-Chine	500
St. John's Lodge	50
Kinghorn & Macdonald	25
Mowbray & Northcott	10
Total	\$49,166.53

THE CHINAMAN AS A SOLDIER.

On the 26th March Mr. W. Machell gave a lecture to the members of the Odd Volumes Society on "The Chinaman as a soldier." There was a good attendance in the Chamber of Commerce room, among those present being H.E. the Governor. Major-General Black presided and in introducing the lecturer, said that two eminent writers, one a political economist and the other a great soldier had put forward views as to the future of China. One of them put forward the idea that the great yellow skinned race would overrun Europe and tinge its inhabitants with the inferior colour; the other believes that a great soldier or a great administrator could weld together the disjointed parts of the Empire and out of that vast population create an army which would find no match in the whole of Europe. He (Major-General Black) thought these contingencies far remote, but still it would be strange if we living on a rock on the outskirts of an empire containing 420 millions of a homogeneous race—if those living on the great islands in the Pacific which owed their advance and welfare to John Chinaman—if those living in the great island in the south where they had to pass a law prohibiting the immigration of Chinese—it would be strange if we were not all interested in the great problem which Mr. Machell was to speak about. The lecturer did not intend to solve the problem; he merely intended to offer a few observations founded upon much experience and much thought.—Mr. Machell then delivered his lecture. He spoke most hopefully of the future of the Chinaman as a soldier. The Chinese had natural courage, were amenable to rapid and effective organisation, had good rallying powers, and they could fight long and stubbornly against heavy odds. He predicted that in time they would be irresistible; they needed only competent organisation and capable chiefs and a tradition behind them. A vote of thanks to the lecturer was passed at the conclusion of the lecture.

FLOGGING IN THE GAOL.

The new rules and regulations for the management of Victoria Gaol which were published in the *Government Gazette* on Saturday contain several alterations and additions. The most interesting one relates to the infliction of corporal punishment by means of a birch instead of a rattan which was formerly in use. For certain breaches of prison discipline the Superintendent has power to order a whipping of twenty strokes (instead of thirty-six in the case of an adult and twelve (the same as before) strokes in the case of a juvenile for minor offences, all of which are scheduled, the maximum number is twelve for adults and six for juveniles, which is the same number as before. The substitution of the birch for the rattan was doubtless the outcome of the recommendations of the Flogging Commission. Another important change relates to the wearing of clothes which can now be ordered for use by the Superintendent only when he may deem it necessary to prevent escapes or when it is reason to apprehend serious trouble or outbreak or assault, or when it is deemed necessary to imprison for a long period.

more, with hard labour were secured by fetters weighing 15lbs., which were fastened to an iron ring on each ankle and a chain was suspended by a hook from the waist belt. Prisoners sentenced to less than one year's imprisonment wore an iron ring on one ankle without other fetters.

A JAPANESE OPINION ON ENGLAND'S POWER IN THE FAR EAST.

In June last Mr. I. Tokutomi and Y. Fukai passed through Hongkong on their way to Europe. Writing to a member of our staff by yesterday's mail these gentlemen in a joint letter say—

We arrived at London in the beginning of August, stayed there for about three weeks, and then started for a tour on the Continent. We visited nearly all the important countries of Europe—in the order of our travel, Holland, Germany, Russia, Turkey, Roumania, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Switzerland, and France—and came back to England on the 1st of this month. You may be interested to know what we have been led to think about England and her policy, in consequence of our observation and comparison of various countries.

You will perhaps allow us to say that of late there has been growing among the peoples of the Far East a sort of misgiving about the strength and capability of England. Even among the Englishmen residing there, there have been complaints that the policy of England is not strong enough in the Far East. We confess that we were rather inclined to share the above mentioned misgiving. Judging from her actions and non-actions in the Far East, our inclination may not have been wholly unreasonable. But having the occasion of actually seeing England and of comparing her with other countries of Europe, we are now firmly convinced that the misgiving felt in some quarters is hasty and ill-founded. The reason why England sometimes seems inactive and even weak is that she has territories scattered over the world, so that she cannot be vigilant of her interests always and in all places. I am afraid that due attention has not been paid by the English people to the affairs of the Far East. We have had occasion of talking with a lot of prominent men in England and have been surprised at their incomplete and inaccurate knowledge—if not to say ignorance—of the Far Eastern affairs. Here is to be found the key to the solution of the question, why the policy of England in the Far East has not been strong enough.

Under these circumstances it is highly desirable that Englishmen in the Far East should do everything in their power to draw the attention of their countrymen at home to the international relations of that part of the world. Great Britain may not be in need of more territory, but she is no doubt in need of as wide a field for her commerce as possible. In order to protect her commercial interests and to secure commercial privileges England must take measures, before it is too late, to counterbalance the influence of Russia, whose ascendancy in China cannot but be detrimental to English interests.

The attitude of the English nation at the end of the late war has unmistakably made an impression upon the people of Japan. As well-wishers of England we have been anxious to see her adopt a strong and effective policy and are very glad to find that the misgiving felt in certain quarters about her strength is wholly unfounded. Much will depend, however, on whether or not you give a sufficiently strong stimulation to your countrymen. This is the reason why we have given frank expression to impressions made upon us during our travels.

We expect to stay in London for a few months yet.

In the new quarantine regulations issued by the Local Government Board the word "foreign" is used as a noun, e.g., "the arrival of any ship from foreign." The omission of the word "ports" does not appear to be a printer's error, as the same form is used all through the regulations. This is rather a startling development of the language, and at first sight does not look attractive, but if the use of the word "foreign" in this sense becomes general doubtless we shall get accustomed to it.

THE WRECK OF THE "GLAMORGANSHIRE"

MARINE COURT OF INQUIRY.

On the 28th March a Marine Court of Inquiry was held at the Harbour Master's office to inquire into the circumstances connected with the loss of the British steamship *Glamorganshire*, official No. 89,651, of London, of which Hugh Norris Vyvyan, the number of whose certificate of competency is 98,221, was master and commander.

The Court had for its members—Commander R. Murray Rumsey, R.N. (Stipendiary Magistrate); Commander Keppel Wade, R.N. H.M.S. *Centurion*; Mr. E. Archibald, master British steamship *Empress of China*; Mr. H. Smith, master British steamship *Doric*; and Mr. E. J. Buller, master British steamship *Chunsang*.

The letter of Captain Vyvyan asking for the Court of Inquiry was read.

Captain Vyvyan said—I hold a master's certificate issued at Liverpool on the 3rd March, 1881. I have been master of the *Glamorganshire* three years. She had her proper complement of officers. We left Hongkong at 3.30 p.m. on the 4th March last bound for Saigon in ballast. She was drawing 13 ft. 4 in. forward and 17 ft. 8 in. aft. We had fine weather and fair wind until 8 a.m. on the 7th inst., when we passed Cape Paderan and entered inside of Bullo bank at 4 p.m., when we shaped the course S. 66° W. compass, S. 62° W. true, for Cape St. James. The position was ascertained by cross bearings. About 5.15 we struck very heavily, the whole of the bottom from the stem to the engine room bulkhead being ripped open. We were going about 11½ knots at the time. We at once swung the boats out with little or no confusion and about 5.45 I sent away the chief officer in charge of No. 6 boat, telling him to go to Cape St. James and wire to Saigon for assistance. The ship filled at once, the engine room being filled almost immediately, and the compartment in front, the No. 1 hold, and the forward tank were also filled. We sounded the ground and found 8 fathoms under the bow and stern and 15 feet under both sides of the ship. The ship was bumping all the time, the bow and stern moving, and the port boiler and amidships and the funnel also commenced lifting. The boats were provisioned and preparations were made for leaving the ship. The chief officer could not get to Cape St. James because there was too much wind and sea, and he drifted up the river and was picked up and taken to Saigon. He applied to Loyd's agent for assistance and a small steamer, with a diver on board, was sent. Soon after midnight the wind and sea had risen so much that I put the passengers and crew in the boats and anchored them under the lee of the ship. The second mate's boat rode very heavily and as he thought the boat was not safe he went to Cape St. James. The third mate and I remained until 8 a.m., when I told him to make his way to Cape St. James. The tug and diver did not come to the ship. I remained on board the ship until noon next day, when seeing no signs of assistance I left for Cape St. James. The four mates were away and there was no one whom I could trust to lower the boat and I had to do it myself, or I should have remained longer by the ship. The fourth mate went with the second mate, and the boatswain and carpenter went with the first mate. When I left the ship No. 4 hold was dry; the water from right forward to the engine room was over the tween decks. The compartment abaft the engine room, which is No. 3 hold, was half full. There was also water in the tunnel; this water came from the engine room. When I left the ship I made the best of my way to Cape St. James, which was 29½ miles away. When we got there we were picked up by the *Battambang*, the steamer which was sent down for us. The chief officer was on board. That was at 5 p.m. on the 8th. I asked the captain to go and stand by the ship, but he said he could not do so as he had to take up his run from Saigon next day, and so he took us to Saigon. There we saw the British Consul, who said he had arranged for the steamer *Decima* to take us to Hongkong. I asked the captain of the *Decima* to take us to the ship to see what could be done.

The *Decima* got to the ship about 7.30 p.m. on the 10th and after removing as many things as we possibly could I asked for volunteers to remain by her. Five men remained with the ship with me. Shortly afterwards another German ship came up and I went back with her to Cape St. James, leaving my five men on the ship. After wiring home I went to Saigon and then returned to Cape St. James. On the morning of the 14th inst. my five men turned up and said they had been obliged to abandon the ship at midnight as it was blowing hard. I had a telegram from the owners stating that Lloyds accepted the ship as a total loss. The last time I saw the ship was at noon on the 10th, when I left to wire to the owners. In order to verify the position of the ship the angle of the elevation of various points was taken and also cross bearings by myself and the officers separately. I should like to say that the behaviour of the Europeans was perfect, but the Asiatics were absolutely worthless. The Asiatics consisted of Chinese firemen and Malay sailors; the latter had been in the ship three years. There was some difficulty in lowering the boats and if I had not had good officers to back me up there would have been trouble, even with the little sea there was.

The President—Do you mean that they were incompetent or mutinous?

Witness—No, sir, they were simply passive. They were not mutinous.

The President—Incompetent?

Witness—They might have known their work, but we could not get them to do anything.

The President—They were incompetent through fear or ignorance?

Witness—Yes.

Richard Bindloss said—I am chief officer of the *Glamorganshire* and hold a master's certificate. I have been in the ship for five years. I was in my room when the ship struck. I had been on deck assisting in the navigation at noon. From noon to the time of the accident I have no personal knowledge concerning the navigation. As soon as the ship struck the boats were all along out and the bearings were taken. I was then sent off to Cape St. James for assistance. When I ran out of my room I looked into No. 2 hold and the water was up to the combings of the lower hold. I sounded round the ship before I left her and found 8 fathoms forward and aft and 15 feet amidships. All the crew behaved well up to the time of my leaving the ship. I went back to the ship on the 10th. The port boiler was then up through the galley and the stanchions were broken in No. 2 hold.

Frank Mooney, the third officer, said—I have been in the ship since June, 1896. It was my watch from 4 to 8 p.m. on the 7th March. I did not take any bearings, and I did not see anyone else take any. I was on the bridge all the time except when I went down to make up one of the crew. The land was in sight. I was given the course of S. 66° W. (compass) when I relieved the second officer. The ship struck at 5.15 while on that course. I have made the voyage before to Saigon and we passed inside the Bullo Bank, nearly taking the route we took in the *Glamorganshire*. I did not see any shoals breaking before the ship struck. There was a moderate breeze aft.

Edwin Charles Phillips, chief engineer, said—I was in my room when the ship struck, and as soon as I heard the noise I also heard the telegraph bell. I went to the engine room and saw that the telegraph had been answered and about the same time I saw the water coming in from the after stoke hold into the engine room. Before the engines were stopped the cranks were in water. We had to clear out and go on deck to assist. When I last saw the ship she was breaking up. The port boiler was lifted about 3 feet and the main deck was lifted about 3 inches above the horizontal and the hull in three or four places was opening out. We closed the tunnel door, although it was not much use doing so, as there was no other door to close.

This concluded the evidence.

The finding of the Court was as follows—We find that the British steamer *Glamorganshire*, official No. 89,651, of London, of which Hugh Norris Vyvyan, whose certificate of competency is 98,221, was master, was wrecked on the 4th March on a voyage to Saigon in ballast.

last, the ship drawing 13 ft. 4 in. forward and 17 ft. 8 in. aft. That after passing inside Bulco Bank on the afternoon of the 7th March the ship struck and remained fast in the position given below. That the water was up to the level of the lower decks in two or three minutes and it was evident that nothing could be done to save the ship. The position given in evidence is—Cape II. Wan S. 85° W. (true), Cape Baki, N. 33° W. (true). The ship was finally abandoned on the evening of the 13th March, at which time the evidence goes to show that she was breaking up. The Court is of opinion that no blame can be attached to the master for the casualty seeing that the ship appears to have been navigated with proper and seamanlike care and that she was supplied with the latest Admiralty chart, in which the danger was not marked, also that she was not prematurely abandoned. As no blame attaches to the master his certificate is returned to him.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

THIRD ATHLETIC MEETING.

The athletic meeting which was held at the Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon was most successful and the promoters, the Victoria Recreation Club, must be congratulated upon having provided such an excellent programme of sports. By permission of the Jockey Club the grand stand and enclosure were on this occasion given for the use of the Club and the kind concession had the effect of drawing several hundreds of spectators, including H.E. the Governor, and the sight of such a large crowd reminded one of a race meeting. The sport was most interesting and thoroughly enjoyable. As was expected there were no entries for the ladies' bicycle race and a foot race between a number of young girls was substituted. At the conclusion the prizes were presented by Mrs. Hastings, for whom cheers were raised. During the afternoon the band of the West Yorkshire Regiment, under Mr. W. G. Bentley, A.R.C.M., greatly pleased the spectators with the following selections of music:—

Fest March... "Tannhäuser"..... Wagner.
Reminiscences of Bellini..... F. Godfrey.
Polka..... "Victoria"..... Faust.
Song..... "Dear Heart"..... Mattei.
Fantasia..... "Español"..... Anon.
Graceful Dance..... Sullivan.
Valse..... "Tarantula"..... W. G. Bentley.
Selection..... "Cavalleria Rusticana".... Mascagni.
God save the Queen.

The following is a list of the officials:—

Patrons:—His Excellency Sir William Robinson, K.C.M.G., H.E. Vice-Admiral Alex. Buller, C.B., H.E. Rear-Admiral C. L. Oxley, R.N., H.E. Major-General Wilsone Black, C.B., Commodore Swinton C. Holland, R.N.

Committee:—Captain W. C. H. Hastings, R.N. (Chairman), Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Messrs. G. A. Caldwell, P. G. Davies, R.A., A. Denison, M. A. A. Souza, R. K. Leigh, W. Machell, Col. Gordon, W.Y.R.

Judges:—Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Capt. W. C. H. Hastings, R.N., Col. Gordon, W.Y.R., Mr. R. K. Leigh.

Referee:—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart.

Handicappers:—Messrs. A. Denison, P. G. Davies, and R. F. Lammert.

Clerks of the Course:—Messrs. P. G. Davies, G. H. Potts, W. Machell, and C. H. Thompson.

Starters:—Messrs. G. A. Caldwell and A. Denison.

Timekeepers:—Messrs. Hart Buck, R. K. Leigh, and M. A. A. Souza.

Hon. Treasurer:—Mr. W. H. Potts.

Acting Hon. Secretary:—Mr. R. F. Lammert.

The following are the results of the competitions:—

120 YARDS FLAT RACE (Handicap).—First prize presented by G. C. C. Master, Esq.; second prize presented; first two in each heat to run in the final.

F. H. Kew (scratch)..... 1
W. Mayson (6 yards)..... 2
W. Armstrong (3 yards)..... 3

Seven competitors entered. The race was run in one heat. Time 12 3/10 secs.

LONG JUMP.—(Three tries).—Prize presented by D. R. Sassoon, Esq.

F. H. Kew..... 1
P. Hyndman..... 2
F. P. Worsley..... 3

Three competitors entered. Distance—First—19 ft. 10 in.; second, 18 ft. 8 in.

THROWING THE CRICKET BALL.—(Three tries); prize presented by Hongkong Cricket Club.

G. R. Vallings..... 1
Four entries. Distance—94 1/2 yards.

100 YARDS FLAT RACE.—Trial Heats; first prize presented by C. A. Tomas, Esq.; second prize presented.

F. H. Kew..... 1
W. Armstrong..... 2

Five entered. Time—10 2/5th secs.; F. P. Worsley and W. Armstrong tied for second place. In the final Worsley scratched to Armstrong.

PUTTING THE SHOT.—(16 lbs.); winner at previous meetings at Hongkong at elsewhere to be penalised one foot. Prize presented.

A. McVicar..... 1
Three entered. Distance—35.06 feet.

BICYCLE RACE.—One mile; start in saddle. First prize presented; second prize presented.

A. McKirdy..... 1
J. Martinez..... 2

Seven entered. Time—3 min. 1 1/4 secs.

HIGH JUMP.—(Three tries); prize presented by Victoria Recreation Club.

P. Hyndman, 5 ft. 1 in..... 1
P. Hyndman and F. P. Worsley only competed. Hyndman beat his last year's record by 3 inches.

HALF-MILE FLAT RACE.—First prize, presented by Taikoo; second prize, presented.

E. F. Mackay..... 1
W. Armstrong..... 2

Eight entered. Time—2 min. 10 1/2 secs.

120 YARDS HURDLE RACE, 10 FLIGHTS.—Previous winner at Hongkong or elsewhere to be penalised 2 1/2 yards; first prize, presented; second prize, presented.

F. P. Worsley, W.Y.R..... 1
P. Hyndman..... 2

H. W. James, R.N..... 3
Three entered. Time—16 4/5 secs.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE (Handicap).—First prize presented by Vice-Admiral Sir A. Buller; second prize presented; first two in each heat to run in the final.

F. H. Kew (scratch)..... 1
J. M. V. dos Remedios (8 yards)..... 2

Eight entered. Time—23 secs.

BICYCLE RACE.—TWO MILES.—START IN SADDLE (Handicap).—First, second, and third prizes presented.

J. Martinez (100 yards)..... 1
R. Henderson (300 yards)..... 2

A. McKirdy (scratch)..... 3
Eight started. Martinez won easily. Time 6 mins. 43 secs.

BOY'S RACE 440 YARDS (Handicap).—Open to all boys over 12 and under 16; handicap at the post, age to be stated on entry; first prize presented; second prize presented.

J. Witchell (40 yards)..... 1
—Ford (25 yards)..... 2

Time, 56 1/2 secs. Fifteen entered.

TUG-OF-WAR; 10 men a side; open to non-Commissioned officers and men of the Army, Navy, and Police; each ship, regiment, or corps may enter one team only; to be pulled over 15 feet; best of three pulls; no spikes or nails allowed; no sitting down; no holes to be dug in the ground before pulling; prize presented.

West Yorkshire Regiment. Only two teams entered.—Marines, H.M.S. Victor Emanuel and West Yorkshire Regiment. The West Yorks won easily.

HALF-MILE FLAT RACE; open to Soldiers, Sailors, and Police; first prize presented.

Private Moore..... 1
Ganda Singh..... 2

Time—2 min. 8 1/2 secs. Four entered.

ONE MILE FLAT RACE (Handicap).—First prize presented by Jas. McKie, Esq.; second prize presented.

C. E. Hume (scratch)..... 1
J. H. Logan (60 yards)..... 2

Eleven entered.—Won easily. Time 5 min. 4 1/2 secs.

GIRLS RACE.—Prizes presented.

Eva Rodger..... 1
Gertie Baker..... 2

120 YARDS VETERANS RACE (Handicap).—competitors to be over 35 years of age and

and not less than 10 years' residence in India, China, or the tropics. 14 yards start to be given for each year over 35 years of age. A. Anderson, 50 years of age (22 1/2 yds); C. H. Thompson, 38 years of age (4 1/2 yds); Six entered. Time—15 2/5 secs.

SACK RACE.—Prize presented.

J. H. Gubbins..... 1
Leo d'Almada e Castro..... 2

Four entered.

440 YARDS FLAT RACE (Challenge Cup).—(To be won two years in succession before becoming the property of a competitor) first prize presented by H. N. Mody, Esq.; second prize presented.

F. H. Kew..... 1
H. W. James, R.N..... 2

Time—54 secs. Only two entered; and a capital race finished with Kew leading by about three yards.

CONSOLATION RACE, 120 YARDS.—Post entries.—Open to all competitors (except those in open events) who have run but not won a prize; prize presented.

Leo d'Almada e Castro..... 1
Six entered.

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED

The nineteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the China Sugar Refining Company, Limited, was held on Saturday at the offices of the General Managers Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. Hon. J. J. Ball, Irving presided and there were also present Hon. E. B. Bellios, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, St. C. Michaelsen and C. S. Sharp (Consulting Committee), J. Barton (Secretary), A. G. Stokes, E. Georg, F. Henderson, R. C. Wilcox, G. H. Potts, G. Murray Bain, J. McG. Forbes, A. P. MacEwen, G. C. Anderson, A. Rodger, G. C. Cox, K. McK. Ross, Ho Tung, and Ho Fook.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, with your permission I propose as usual to treat the report and accounts as read. When addressing you at the last annual general meeting, I ventured to hope that the combination of adverse circumstances, which led to the unfortunate result of the working during 1895, would not again have to be collectively encountered, and as you are already aware from the published accounts, the result of our operations during 1896 show a marked improvement. Speaking generally, however, the past year was one of disappointment in the sugar trade of the world. Early in the spring there was a confident expectation of a general improvement in prices owing largely to a shortage of approximately 900,000 tons in the cane sugar production in Cuba, and the belief that the United States of America would therefore have to draw much larger supplies than usual of European beet. For a time the course of the market seemed to warrant the optimistic views which were freely expressed, as beet sugar rose steadily from 11s. per cwt. in January to 12s. 9d. at the end of April, but from this figure the price gradually receded, until in October it reached 8s. 9d., or a fall over 20 per cent. in six months. The result of this severe collapse was that considerable quantities of cheap beet sugar were thrown upon the consuming markets in the East, which had hitherto been to a great extent free from this competition, and the demand for our sugars, especially in Japan, was interfered with towards the end of the year. The Refineries were, however, almost constantly employed throughout the twelve months, and although the average margin of profit was not large, I trust the results will be considered satisfactory. You will notice that the working for the year has resulted in a profit of \$241,553.58 and the actual sum at our disposal amounts to \$137,221.08 out of which the General Agents and Consulting Committee, after careful consideration, recommend that a dividend of \$5 1/2 per share should be paid; that \$25,000 should be written off properly account, and the balance \$2,221.08 carried forward to next account, which apportionment I trust will meet with the approval of the shareholders. Sugar is at the best a somewhat uncertain article in which to deal, and warrants a constant

experience the General Agents are of opinion that a systematic application of the profits to reduction of property account, under which heading is included the cost of machinery liable to wear and tear, is essential in the interests of the Company. You will notice in the balance sheet that under liabilities the amount standing opposite sundry creditors represents a considerable sum. I may explain that this must always be the case under existing conditions, because it is generally difficult to purchase Java sugars to any great extent for delivery beyond the 31st December, and we have consequently to buy rather largely for shipment during the autumn months in order to supply our needs for the first half of the succeeding year. With regard to the question of water, I am pleased to say that arrangements have been made under which the Refineries will obtain an ample supply in the immediate future, thus saving the expense of constructing the reservoir in the Soukumpao Valley referred to in the last two reports. Concerning prospects for the present year, I cannot, owing to the many fluctuations to which sugar markets are liable, speak at all definitely, but I may say that it is estimated the results of the working for the first two months of 1897 have been moderately satisfactory. Before moving the adoption of the report, I shall be pleased to answer any questions.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts.

Mr. G. M. BAIN—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding that proposition. We all know that the report is, as it states, on the whole satisfactory, and after the satisfactory remarks made by the Chairman, I have great pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts as presented.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN said the next business was the election of the Consulting Committee. Mr. David Gubbay, Mr. Sassoon's successor, was willing to serve on the Committee if elected.

Mr. R. C. WILCOX proposed the re-election of Hon. E. R. Bellios, Messrs. F. A. Gomes, St. O. Michaelsen, C. S. Sharp, and the election of Mr. D. Gubbay to the Consulting Committee.

Mr. STOKES seconded.

Carried.

Mr. GEORG proposed the re-election of Messrs. T. Arnold and F. Henderson as auditors for the ensuing year.

Mr. HO TUNG seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. Dividend warrants will be issued on Monday.

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The fifteenth ordinary annual meeting of the Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited, was held on Saturday at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided and there were also present—Messrs D. Gillies and J. H. Lewis (Consulting Committee), J. Barton (Secretary), A. P. MacEwen, J. H. Cox, G. C. Cox, G. H. Potts, K. McK. Ross, D. K. Sliman, Ho Fook, Ho Tung, A. C. Coutts, and J. R. Michael.

The SECRETARY read the notice calling the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I propose with your permission to treat the report as read. At our last annual meeting the prospects for the year appeared to be fairly good, inasmuch as we had then had nearly three months of profitable working, and there was a general expectation of the continuance in the improvement of the sugar trade generally, which had then begun. Unfortunately the year proved one of great disappointment to the trade throughout the world, and prices, which advanced until the end of April, declined steadily from that time until the end of the year. The first consequence of the decline in Europe was naturally a falling off in the demand for Spain, which, as you are aware, is practically the only market for our sugars except the small consumption in the Philippine Islands. We were able, however,

to keep the refinery at work, though at a very small margin of profit, until the middle of September, when it was perforce stopped owing to the general disorganization of the labour market consequent upon the rebellion in the Philippines, which gained considerable ground at that time. In this connection it will doubtless be a satisfaction to the shareholders to know that although fighting has taken place in close proximity to the works at Malabon, the rebels have so far scrupulously observed the rights of property and no damage has been done to that of the company. The enforced stoppage of the refinery during the last three months and a half of the year of course told heavily against us as a certain amount of running expenses for salaries, wages, &c., must be incurred while the works are silent. I may mention that the greater part of the stock of refined sugar on hand when the works were stopped in September has since been sold, and the refinery started working again at the end of last month. I trust that circumstances will allow of work being continued, but the state of affairs in Manila and the uncertainty which exists as to the course of prices in Europe render the immediate future somewhat doubtful. These views which I have just expressed as to the outlook for the present year are also shared by the Manila agents, who recently wrote that they hoped circumstances may enable them to make the present year a good one for the refinery, though at the moment it did not appear probable. The figures in the report I think do not call for reference, but if any shareholder should desire any information regarding these beyond what is stated in the report I shall be pleased to give it. I conclude, gentlemen, by expressing regret that we have not a more cheerful report to bring before you, but from what I have stated I trust you will realize the difficulties the Company had to contend against during the year. Before moving the adoption of the report I will be pleased to answer any questions shareholders may ask.

No questions were asked and the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. J. H. COX seconded.

Carried.

Mr. POTTS proposed the re-election of Messrs. D. Gillies and J. H. Lewis as Consulting Committee.

Mr. J. R. MICHAEL seconded.

Carried.

Mr. G. C. COX proposed the re-election of Mr. Thomas Arnold as auditor of the Company for the ensuing year.

Mr. HO TUNG seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That is all the business, gentlemen.

THE PUNJOM MINING COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Company, Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the work carried on at Punjom during the month of February—

Mining—All work coming under this head has received the usual attention and fair progress made.

August Shaft, 200 ft. Level.—A kiln of 35 tons of ore from the stope on Gillies' reef has been calcined and crushed, and as the result is very poor (under 5 dwts) work there has been discontinued for the present. The stopes on the ore found to the west of the New Shaft continue to look very encouraging, and within the last few days some very fair ore has been met with. The supply from this point is little, however, and will be so till we can get the ground opened up and a larger number of hands employed there. The stopes on the East and West and North and South reefs have given their usual quantity of ore for the mill, but again the grade has been very poor, indeed.

We have commenced the dam for holding all surface and other drainage down to this level preparatory to resuming the sinking of the August shaft, and hope to see it completed within the next fortnight.

Intermediate Level.—Stoping and driving has been carried on here as hitherto and with results as given in my regular weekly letters.

110 ft. Level.—There being change to the northward, the ore falling very poor. Upper Stopes.—A large quantity of ore has been got from these stopes during the month, but the grade has been anything but satisfactory.

If there is not an improvement here soon the poorer stopes will be discontinued.

North Shaft.—A new shaft, which in future will be known by this name, has been commenced to go down one the ore found to the west of the New Shaft and referred to in an earlier part of this report. It is only 8 ft. by 8 ft. within timbers as it will be used for hauling only. It should strike the reef at about 220 ft. from surface.

The drivage for the month is 237 ft. 6 in. Ore mined 831 tons.

made up as follows—

August Shaft 526 10

Upper Stopes 354 10

Milling.—This work was carried on continuously during 27 days, crushing 1,000 tons of ore from the mill, yielding 159 ozs. 14 dwts. and 400 tons old headings, yielding 40 ozs. of melted gold.

I need not tell you this is the lowest yield here since September, 1892.

Calcining Works.—These ran full time, treating 35 tons of concentrates, yielding 36 ozs. 6 dwts. of melted gold.

Cyanide Works.—These works were resumed on the 16th and ran 14 days, treating 522 tons of tailings, yielding 203 ozs. 4 dwts. of bullion, valued at 16s. 2½d. per ounce.

This is very low, and is the result of the zinc shavings having been rubbed too severely.

Guban.—Fair progress has been made in sinking the shaft here, notwithstanding that the influx of water has been pretty heavy. It has now reached a depth of 54 ft. and is substantially timbered. The road to the Jelai river has been completed, as has also the godown there.

General.—A deal of work coming under this head has been done.

The catchment area of the main dam has been ascertained and plans, etc., sent out to you. The storage capacity of this dam has also been seen to and the necessary levels taken to find out to what height the retaining wall could be carried without diverting the water into other channels, and the necessary data sent you.

Labour.—The supply of this has again been fairly good.

Health.—This has been fairly good also.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for this month is 10½ inches.

MAJOR BROTHERS, LIMITED.

The following is the report presented to the shareholders at the seventh annual general meeting held at the Company's Office, No. 18, Hankow Road, on the 24th March—

The Directors beg to submit to the shareholders the duly audited accounts for the 14 months of the Company's operations ended 31st December, 1896.

They are glad that the business as a whole has left a profit on the period under review, and that their anticipations as to the sounder position of the Company have in some measure been realized. A comparison of this year's accounts with those of the two previous shows that the loss for 1894 was Tls. 21,548.78 and Tls. 4,567.91 for 1895, while this year there is a gain of Tls. 7,212.26.

Soap-making had been confined to the execution of a few small orders, and the loss shown in the accounts has been caused by the sale of a part of the raw materials.

The Oil-Mill, owing to the high rates which have ruled for seeds, has not been run save at intervals, and consequently this branch shows a loss.

At the Acid Works a much larger business has been done. The refiners have received and treated a greater quantity of silver, and our local contracts, although deliveries are short of the actual amount contracted for, show an increase.

The Shun Pao newspaper, the book shop, and other branches have continued to do well.

Directors.—Mr. A. McLeod, who has offered himself for re-election.

Auditor.—Mr. Wilmer Harris, the present Auditor, offers himself for re-election for the current year.

J. D. THORBURN,
Chairman.

Shanghai 9th March, 1897.

THE FIRE AT THE EWO WASTE SILK FILATURE SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 20th March.

Shortly before midnight last night the hands at Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s Waste Silk Filature left off work for the customary half-hour's respite, and the several departments of the filature were looked up as usual for safety's sake until the operatives returned. Amongst these departments was the drying room, in which a large quantity of material was undergoing a drying process. This room was locked, but a few minutes after the work-people left it was seen to be in flames. The alarm was given to the police by the manager, who proceeded to the place of the outbreak, but nothing could be done owing to the apparently total absence of any description of fire appliance whatever, or any available water supply, consequently the fire speedily assumed alarming proportions, and it became evident that the building was doomed, for before the firemen arrived the flames had spread from the drying room to the adjoining buildings, which by this time were well alight.

The police, as was said before, were communicated with, and assistance was telephoned for to Mr. Lewis Moore, Superintendent of the Shanghai Fire Brigade. The message stated that help was badly needed, and on this Mr. Moore instructed the bell-tower men at the different stations to sound the alarm on the fire-bells. This was done, "number one" district being signalled with the bells. The firemen turned out smartly, the Hongkew Mih Ho Loongs being first on the scene, and followed in a few seconds by the Hongkew, No. 2 Co., but a first glance it could be seen by practical men that there was very little hope of saving the immense buildings, for instead of hydrants being dotted about the premises—as one would expect in so important a locality—the nearest one which stood on the road, right opposite the gateway, was between one and two hundred yards away, the next nearest being double that distance off. Two or three trucks were immediately stripped of their hose, which was unhappily found to be sufficient for one stream only, but as additional trucks arrived more hose was obtainable, and finally three streams were brought into play. The whole filature, however, was now one mass of leaping, roaring flames, and it was not long before the roofs of both main building and wings fell in with a deafening crash. Long before this time it was very clear that three streams of water were totally insufficient to cope with the conflagration—indeed, it would have taken several times that number to have surrounded the building and then only at considerable intervals. Extra assistance was therefore sent for, and the Hongkew Co.'s engine and the fire steam-launch arrived. The engine was placed beside the large tank, which lies in the space between the main building and the east wing, drawing water therefrom; while the steamer got right in shore close to the river bank, two lines of hose being laid from it to the burning buildings. Thus four additional powerful streams were brought to bear upon the fire and control was very gradually being obtained. Then a new difficulty was encountered, owing to the high walls, which, left unsupported by beams, bulged by the heat and weighted by the mass of debris and machinery within, threatened at every moment to fall and overwhelm those who stood near them. Other points of vantage had therefore to be found from which the flames could be fought, and the fire was not got under until the light in the eastern sky heralded the approach of day, then the weary firemen were able to relax their efforts, and leave what was by this time no more than a vast heap of ruins. This was at 7 o'clock.

The scene of the catastrophe lies some little distance beyond the Shanghai Water Works, at which Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Wood reside, and

who very kindly supplied comforting and much-needed refreshments to the firemen. A word of praise is due to the officers of a small Chinese gunboat, moored off the scene of the fire, who sent a party of men ashore with it, must be admitted, primitive and useless pumps, but who, nevertheless, succeeded in being the first to get water on to the burning buildings; but the fire was of too great a magnitude to be checked by their strenuous but ineffectual efforts. The men worked very well; they did their best and more than that cannot reasonably be expected.

At noon to-day the fire was still burning, bursting out here and there in fitful flames where anything was left to consume, but otherwise nothing but portions of the walls, bent, shattered, and twisted machinery lie in huge heaps covered with bricks, tiles, and charred timber, and all hopelessly and irretrievably ruined.

There were some 700 hands employed at the filature, and of these 100 were at work last night. They will, of course, be thrown out of employment, as there is absolutely nothing left of the buildings in which they were employed.

The cause of the fire is at present unknown, but is believed to have arisen through the overheating of a pipe which passed from the engine-room, up through the drying room above.

The following is the list of insurances on the premises:—

MAIN BUILDING AND MACHINERY— TOTAL LOSS.

Royal	...	Tls. 40,000
Hongkong	...	" 30,000
China	...	" 30,000
South British	...	" 20,000
Lancashire	...	" 15,000
Commercial Union	...	" 15,000

Total, Tls. 150,000

The risks on the stock in the main building and godowns were:—

Royal	...	Tls. 25,000
Atlas	...	" 30,000
Hongkong	...	" 20,000
Alliance	...	" 10,000
New Zealand	...	" 10,000

Total, Tls. 95,000

The main building, stock, and machinery, as has been stated, are totally destroyed, but the godowns and other buildings are intact, while additional buildings in course of erection remain untouched by the fire.—*Mercury*.

THE CHINESE POST OFFICE AND THE INVOLABILITY OF CORRESPONDENCE.

A writer in the *Shanghai Mercury* says:—Much has been written about the change in our Postal arrangements, but I have seen no reference to the power of postal authorities to tamper with correspondence. That it was done without scruple in England in times gone by, and may be common still in some places, is well enough known. The *modus operandi*—I quote from the Report of a Secret Committee—was as follows:—The room where the inner secrets of the post were got at was not known to any but the secret agent. "A more low-browed, villainous-looking apartment could not be well conceived. It looks the room of a sneak, and it was one—an official sneak, it is true, but but none the less a sneak." In this room the official letter-picker was appropriately housed. Unchallenged, and in fact unknown, he passed by a secret staircase every morning to his odious duties; every night he went out again unseen.

His methods are described thus: "He selects the letters he intends to operate upon. Before him lie the implements of his craft—a range of seals bearing upon them the ordinary mottoes, and a piece of tobacco pipe. If none of the seals fit the impressions upon the letters, he carefully takes copies in bread; and now the more serious operation commences.

The tobacco-pipe red-hot pours a burning blast upon the yielding wax; the letter is opened, copied, resealed, and returned to the bag, and reaches the person to whom it is directed, apparently unviolated."

It was the opening of Maxwell's letters which exploded the whole system, but they were actually sent to the Foreign Office to be read by the Minister himself.

The Minister was Walpole, and the date of the report is 1844, so we may hope that things have improved, but with a change such as we are now experiencing it is interesting to know what may be done by unscrupulous officials.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

HONGKONG PORT DUES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—It was only yesterday morning, shortly before the meeting, that I was able hastily to look up the correspondence which had taken place upon the Light Dues matter. In doing so I failed to find the letter from the Hongkong shipping agents to H. B. Sir Wm. Robinson of the 24th December last, this having been accidentally omitted from the China Association report. Mr. Henderson has since kindly sent me a copy. From this I see that the reasonableness of a claim for the payment by the shipping of the expenses of maintaining buoys, beacons, and lights in and about Hongkong is admitted by them. My remarks therefore refer only to the letter from the London shipping offices in which an opinion is expressed in favour of entire exemption. I am indebted to the Hon. T. H. Whitehead for his correction yesterday, and readily admit that the Hongkong shipping agents are less unreasonable than I thought them. At the same time it should be remembered that Hongkong is no longer what it was in 1842. The conditions are altogether changed. When a new club is established the original members associate themselves together, whilst those subsequently added pay for entrance. Has any steamer ever declined to avail of the advantages of this port for the purpose of avoiding the impost of 2½ cents per ton? This, supposing she spends one week in the harbour, represents about a 1/260th part of what a fixed property of the same value pays per annum upon land. "Of whom do the Kings of the Earth take tribute?" If any should be free, it is the children, and not strangers. The principle is universally admitted that those who use the mart or the exchange, the hearth or the resort, should pay for its upkeep and support, and landlords would feel themselves but poorly treated if their customers felt bound only to contribute towards the expense of the gauntlet over the front door or the painting of the "Red Lion" on the sign.—Yours faithfully,

GRANVILLE SHARP

Hongkong, 26th March, 1897.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Referring to the leader in your issue of this date, may I be permitted to suggest to you that it is at least improbable that the landlord of the Red Lion would receive free of charge a customer who put up his waggon and horses in the inn-yard and merely used the inn to sit down and wait till the contents of the waggon were charged into smaller conveyances for distribution in the town. This, I think, is a fairer illustration of the relationship between the Government and the shipping, with reference to charges imposed on the latter.

Ships come and go, and the prosperity of the colony is advanced, not by the mere fact of the arrival of so many registered tons of shipping, but by the quantity of merchandise brought for consumption and distribution, for the conveyance of which they, the ships, are remunerated, and thus two parties are directly benefited, those interested in the goods, and those interested in the ships. Surely, under these circumstances it does not seem fair to charge two parties to pay to a third party, who is directly benefited by the advantage of the merchandise. Where would you be without the ships? We must induce, nay, compel, them to come here, and they must be treated tenderly.

and the cost of keeping this port open for them must not be a charge on their earnings, because they come here for your benefit."

R.

Hongkong, 27th March, 1897.

Is there any one in the colony, from the Governor to the sweeping coolie, whether in a Government or a mercantile office, who is not directly benefited by the advent of ships and merchandise? All are alike dependent on shipping for their incomes, as also are property owners for the value of their property.—
Ed. D. P.]

THE PHILIPPINE REBELLION.

CAPTURE OF IMUS AND CAVITE BY THE SPANIARDS.

We have been favoured by the Spanish Consul with a copy of the following telegram received from the Secretary of the Government of the Philippines:—

"Manila, 25th March, 7.15 p.m.

"Imus and Cavite captured by our troops. The Spanish flag was hoisted at the Church tower at 3 p.m. Old Cavite on fire. Very important victory for us. More details will follow."

The telegram received by Senor Navarro, the Spanish Consul, respecting the capture of Imus and Cavite is ambiguous in so far that it leaves it doubtful whether it means that Imus and the town of Cavite have both been captured or only Imus in the province of Cavite. The original reads "Conquistado Imus Cavite bandera nacional onden torre iglesia desde tres tarde," etc. On the one hand it seems improbable that two such important strongholds should have been captured on the same day, while on the other hand, the position of Imus being well known, it seems unlikely that it should have been deemed necessary to specify the province in which it is situated.

THE ALLEGED TORTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The Yokohama Box of Curios publishes a letter from a resident at Manila, in which the writer says:—

"Several home papers, and, notably, the *London and China Express*, have devoted leading articles on Spanish cruelty in the Philippines, which the latter paper afterwards to a certain extent retracted as being one-sided, or, if committed, that they were reprisals for cruelties committed on the rebel side. After so many contradictions, it is at least refreshing to learn from the last number of the *London and China Express* to hand that from 'reliable information' received the Spaniards now acknowledge that, in order to force a prisoner to confess, resort has had to be had to 'a severe whipping with a rattan, but that the days of boot-jacks, thumb-screws, and racks have gone by even for the Spaniard.' Another writer, in the *Hongkong Telegraph* of 5th February last, further says: 'It is affirmed here that the Spanish authorities are using torture in order to extort confessions from their political prisoners. It is impossible to ascertain the truth of this statement, but it is notorious that things are done here behind the scenes upon which the Spaniards would not dare to let in the light of publicity.' This being the case, both Mr. Davidson and 'Alpha' in their reports to the *Daily Press*, were not very far from the truth, whatever Mr. O'Shea—whose virtue is certainly not impartiality, and who is doubtless elated with the 'puff' he received in the *Manila Comercio* of the 22nd December last in a leading article on his advent, and partly translated into the *China Mail*, together with the marked attention paid him by the Governor General—may say to the contrary. I am in a position to affirm that a very severe use of the rattan and other cruelties have been freely made use of to extort confessions from political prisoners, instances having come under my personal knowledge, even to old men of 70 years, but I do not believe either boot-jacks or racks have been made use of; thumb-screws and other abominations, yes. The sensational reports about torture of priests is pure invention. Beyond those killed in fair warfare, I have reliable information that there is only

one case of a captive priest being maltreated in the Province of Cavite, but it should be known that this Holy Friar (not of orders grey) was a notorious evil doer, and for many years past the abuser of the sanctity of domestic bliss amongst his parishioners, and it was therefore only natural, if not excusable, that they, in a moment of triumph, should have wreaked their vengeance on this spoiler of their happiness. As a set-off to this, however, there are, or were until a short time ago, nine Spanish friars held as captives in the town of San Francisco de Malabon, in Cavite province, who are treated with every consideration. The parish church is assigned to them for their devotional exercises, and they are unmolested in any way beyond being prohibited from leaving the precincts of the town. Probably some of these have since been shot in retaliation for the continued horrible executions on the public promenade in Manila, culminating in the assassination of the unfortunate Dr. Rizal, a victim to priestly vengeance and an outrage on civilization."

THE SAIGON RICE TRADE.

According to the *Courrier de Saigon* the exportation of rice from Saigon during 1897 promises to be very heavy. On the 14th March there were seventeen steamers in the river loading with rice either for Europe or ports in the Far East and the rice cleaning mills are working day and night in order to meet the numerous demands made upon them during this quarter. The enormous arrivals of grain had not had the least effect in lowering the prices, which continue firm. At Cholon there are immense stacks of paddy waiting to be taken to mills and the shops, granaries, and sheds of Binhay are also gorged with the grain. The Chinese say that this is only the commencement and that in a month and a half the feverish contractors in the interior of the country will place mountains of grain before the doors of the mills. So flourishing is the business that transactions are reckoned in millions of dollars. Large quantities of the rice are destined for two of the important French ports. This state of things affirms the vitality and the astonishing progress of Cochinchina, which will be able to double its budget and so reach, in six years, the sum of thirty million dollars, providing the ground yields as much in proportion as the rich western provinces. Certain districts, such as Rachgia, have seen their exportations doubled in three years, thanks to the efforts of the Annamite cultivators. In various parts of the country the natives are irrigating the land and the development has been really prodigious, giving an absolute guarantee of an era of extraordinary prosperity. It is to these regions, concludes the *Courrier de Saigon*, that the Government should turn their eyes, for it is on that soil that the fortune of Cochinchina will silently and without effort be built.

A BIG GAMBLE IN STRAITS INSURANCE SHARES.

Shanghai, 18th March.

What has been termed by some a deep laid scheme of speculation has been perpetrated upon certain Shanghai speculators by some person or persons believed to be "in the know" with regard to the workings of the Straits Insurance Co., by which a large sum has been transferred from purchasers who bought for clearance to be made at the end of March, April, May, and June, and who believed the stock to be dirt cheap, in view of rumours from Singapore, Hongkong, and elsewhere that a dividend of 10 per cent. was to be paid out of the profits. Now the question has been asked and, as will be seen below, answered officially: Was certain information of the Company's position received in Shanghai from Singapore ten days before the same was made known to shareholders? It is alleged that it was, but only to a favoured few, who, profiting by the knowledge, manipulated the market to their own profit. The scheme was apparently well thought out, and it may be interesting to narrate it as we have received it. As it would have excited suspicion to sell short in Singapore

certain speculators in Shanghai were selected, and these were kept advised by telegram and meanwhile sold freely at dropping rates, as many shares as possible on time delivery, and it is said that some thousands were thus disposed of, the market falling from \$29 to \$25.50 and even Hongkong, usually wide awake in such cases, was caught napping, and 1,500 to 1,600 shares were taken there. Then the following wire was received at the Shanghai Office on Saturday last:—

"The following is a summary of the Company's accounts to be submitted to next annual meeting: Net premium for year 1896, \$1,270,000; amount carried forward from working to new account, \$580,000; \$180,000 has been withdrawn from reserve fund. Balance at credit of profit and loss is \$31,009. Propose paying a dividend of 5 per cent."

Within an hour of the issue of this there followed a collapse of the shares. On Friday shares were quoted at \$27, on Saturday at \$25.50, but on Monday the opening rate was \$15, at which sales were effected by a scared speculator, and those shares were snapped up by the short sellers who are anxious to cover the remaining short sales at about the price, and, if they are successful, the calculation of how much is gained is simple enough.

But what is asked and what we have endeavoured to find out is, Did such information become the property of the little clique before it was officially made known, and if so by whom was it imparted? The loss of money by the transactions, although serious enough to many, is held by some to be insignificant compared with the suspicion of a breach of confidence, and it has been suggested that a searching enquiry should be made in Singapore as to whether, and by whom, any information was forwarded to Shanghai. The ordinarily shrewd Hongkong market, with its peculiar ramifications, its open secrets, etc., is regarded in these parts as being the toughest nut to crack when either "bulling" or "bearing," but it pales before this present case. Shrewdness, foresight, or superior intelligence are always to be respected among business men, but neither of these qualities is apparent in the case under review.

On being interviewed this morning with reference to the matter, the Manager in Shanghai was asked:

"Do you know, are you positive that such information as contained in the telegram of the affairs of the Company was not known in Shanghai ten days, or any greater or lesser time, before you issued the express?"

He said—"I am quite certain it was not quite positive; and that it could not be the result of official inspiration. As soon as I received the telegram I issued it as an express. I received it at two o'clock and by three o'clock it was circulating among the public. There is nothing phenomenally unfortunate in the Company's year. It is just one of those periods of exceptionally heavy losses on first class risks common to all similar undertakings. In support of this assertion I may state that so far the published balance sheets of different companies showed the settlements were 37½ per cent for the Straits, 46 per cent for the British and Foreign Co., 36½ per cent for the Sea, 38½ per cent for the Ocean, and 38 per cent for the Maritime; so that the Straits really has only shared the fate of many of the good companies."

Returning to the possibility of information leaking from headquarters he said—"On a former occasion I requested the Head Office in Singapore to furnish me with any information that might be published in Singapore, in order that the Shanghai shareholders might enjoy the same advantages as was thought were attainable by those residing in Singapore, but I was informed that the Directors absolutely declined to publish any information prior to the closing of the annual accounts." *Mercury*

On the 24th March a marine engineer named T. Gilchrist went into the Police Court wearing his hat and smoking. The Magistrate fined him \$25 for contempt of court.

FIRE ON BOARD THE "TACOMA"

There was an outbreak of fire on board the Northern Pacific liner *Tacoma* at Kobe on the 18th March, happily not of a very serious nature. Had the danger not been discovered when it was, however, the consequences would in all probability have been most serious. Capt. Whistler was just about to sit down to breakfast when an officer reported to him that there was a fire in the main hold. Hurrying to the hatch and springing down the captain saw to his astonishment that the bales of cotton were on fire in half a dozen different places. Bales several feet apart were on fire, just as though some one had taken a match or candle and deliberately set fire to the cotton. There was then not so much smoke in the hold as to prevent one from obtaining a good view. The pumps were at once got to work and the bales removed as soon as possible, water being kept playing upon the cotton all the time. Luckily the lower hold was quite empty and into this the sound bales were tumbled as they were got out. Altogether about 30 bales were damaged. Captain Whistler and his officers are to be congratulated upon the prompt and efficacious measures adopted. A little delay or indecision would probably have entailed grave consequences. As it is the damage is not likely to exceed \$600. How the fire originated is a mystery. The hatch had not been opened very long and no cargo of any kind had been removed from the hold. The cotton amongst which the fire occurred was intended for Kobe and has been landed here.—*Kobe Herald*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The new Japanese Consul, who arrived at Canton several days ago, paid an official call on the Viceroy on the 23rd inst. The Consul is staying at the Victoria Hotel on Shameen.

A notorious robber named Leung, for whose arrest a reward of three hundred dollars was offered, arrived at Canton from Hongkong on the 22nd inst. On his arrival he was caught sight of by soldiers, who sprang forward to arrest him. The robber drew a revolver and fired at the soldiers, who returned the fire. The robber then ran to Chin-un Street and entered an unoccupied house. The soldiers dared not enter, but fired into the house from outside, and the robber also fired on the soldiers from inside. At last the robber's ammunition was exhausted and the soldiers got into the house and captured him.

The Grain Commissioner has sent a weiyuen, under instructions from the Viceroy, to decide on suitable sites in Samshui, Kongkun, and Wuchow for the erection of Customs stations.

H. E. Chang Yun-woon, the Special Ambassador to England in connection with the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, will leave Shanghai en route to England on the 9th April. His Excellency will not come to Hongkong and pass the Indian Ocean, for he is afraid that many southern ports have been infected with plague. It is said that His Excellency is authorised on his arrival in England to discuss the question of increasing the Chinese import tariff.

A despatch has been sent by the Viceroy to the Macao Government asking it to demolish the building used as a Portuguese military station near the village named Chin-san, as it is outside the limit of the Portuguese concession.

Fifteen prisoners were taken from the prisons of Namhoi and Pun-u for execution. Most of them were robbers and the most notorious one was named Li U-tsai, who was the adopted brother of the late notorious robber Chang Wan, who was fatally shot by the soldiers in Fa-un district, as already reported. At the time of his decapitation Li U-tsai, who seemed very glad, addressed the officer superintending the execution and said, "I am very glad that my life is to be ended now and I hope you will have promotion."

It is said that some Sanss have applied to the Peking Government asking to be allowed to open fantan gambling houses in Canton. A sum of six hundred thousand taels per annum will be paid to the Government for the monopoly.

The Commissioner of Customs issued a notice several days ago inviting the leading merchants to go to see him to consider the question of modifying the postal laws.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Macao, 26th March.

A great sensation has been caused here by the news published by the *Echo Macaense* under the heading of "Latest Intelligence" to the effect that Senhor Celestino, the Governor of that unfortunate island Timor, has sent a power of attorney to an advocate here with instructions to take proceedings against the *Echo* with reference to what it has published against him. It is said that Senhor Celestino will not now allow any one in Timor to receive the *Echo* and that when the mail comes in he goes himself to the Post Office and destroys all the copies that arrive in order that no one should read what is written about his fine administration. What kind of administration can be expected of such a man? It is said that there is no one in Portugal willing to accept the office of Governor in succession to Senhor Celestino, because they are all afraid of the state of ruin to which he has reduced the island. Under the treatment they are receiving the natives will never become friends of the ruling Power, so that the next Governor will not have smooth times, but quite the reverse. The military force there is too small for the requirements and when war is made upon one tribe invitations have to be sent to other tribes to supply native soldiers, but now the tribes have grown tired of fighting each other and Senhor Celestino cannot find any of them ready to help him. He has therefore had to request the Lisbon Government to supply him with African soldiers for the garrison. The request has been complied with, but I do not think the African soldiers are to be relied on, because they did not volunteer for the service but came under compulsion, and they do not receive their pay regularly, while they are subjected to frequent and heavy punishment. It is to be feared therefore that they will on some occasion turn against the Government.

The editor of the *Echo Macaense* says he is ready to answer the case against him and prove all that has been published in the *Echo*, in fact he welcomes the prosecution as a means of securing official inquiry into Senhor Celestino's administration.

The Chinese authorities have requested the Government of Macao to withdraw the military guard placed some years ago on the island of Dom Joao, to the south-west of Macao. Possibly some trouble may arise from this. The island in question has always been considered as belonging to Portugal, and in former times there were European residents there, who had a bathing place, billiard room, etc. Seafaring people used to frequent it, because the crews of vessels anchoring near landed there for their recreation instead of coming to Macao. Of course when the shipping trade of the port languished the business of the people on Dom Joao fell off also and they had to return to Macao. The present trouble has arisen, I believe, from the fact of the Government having ordered the construction of a brick guard-house to replace the mat-shed in which the guard has hitherto been accommodated. I believe we have in Macao some tattlers who seek to become prominent by causing difficulties. I see by various maps made in ancient times the island of Dom Joao is marked as belonging to Portugal and I think therefore Portugal can claim it and do with it what she likes.

HONGKONG.

The bamboo is again in flower at the Peak this year. We have not observed or heard of any in flower on the lower levels.

Her Majesty's approval of the Military Contribution Ordinance and the Appropriation Ordinance are notified in the *Gazette*.

The material of the old Pedder's Wharf was sold by auction on the 26th March by Mr. J. M. Armstrong. The purchaser was a Chinese contractor, and the price paid \$510.

The chief topic in the colony now is the Diamond Jubilee and how it should be celebrated. The man Chui Kwai, who twice confessed to having cut his wife's throat and to packing her body in a box, was found not guilty at the Criminal Sessions; the decision created somewhat of a sensation. On Tuesday the annual meeting of the Hongkong Branch of the China Association was held, and the Sanitary Board also met the same day. On Friday the wreck of the steamer *Glamorganshire* near Cape St. James was enquired into and the Court exonerated the captain from blame. The annual Athletic Sports promoted by the Victoria Recreation Club were held on Saturday afternoon and were very successful.

The gas main in Queen's Road near the Clock Tower caught fire on the 26th March while coolies were digging the trench for the new water mains, but it was quickly extinguished.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Colonial Government	\$300
Lan Wai Chun	50
Ho Tung	25
Leung Yan Po	25
Wing Kee & Co.	25
Chai On Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.	25
Man On Marine Insurance Co., Ltd.	25
Yuen Fat Hong	25
Won Shin Tong	25
Hon. Wei Yuk	20
Kwok Sin Lan	15
J. F. B.	10
R. Marten	10
Francisco Tee Yat	10
Ho Fook	10
E. H. Joseph	10
Alex. MacKenzie	10
Asger and Esmail	10
J. W. Osborne	10
F. Dodwell	10
Rev. H. Bender	5
W. Brewer & Co.	5
Paul Brewitt	5
Cottam & Co.	5
S. W. Goggin	5
W. C. H. H.	5
F. Kircher	5
L. Mallory	5
Mehta & Co.	5
More and Seimund	5
W. Parlane	5
J. Rosset	5
A. Rodger	5
E. W. Terry	5
R. C. Vanis	5
Hon. A. M. Thomson	5
J. Ullmann & Co.	5
Paul Jordan	5
W. Stuart Harrison	5
W. Jackson	5
Kwong Lee Cheong	5
A. Seth	5
J. M. Armstrong	5
R. Becker	5
H. Botel	5
Campbell, Moore & Co.	5
W. J. Canter, R.N.	5
W. E. Clarke	5
Erich Georg	5
G. Girault	5
F. D. Goddard	5
C. H. Grace	5
Chad T. Kew	5
J. W. Kew	5
J. W. Kinghorn	5
Kuhn & Co.	5
John Lemm	5
H. McCallum	5
C. A. Camroodin	3
J. L. Chuttoo	3
A. E. Allemso	2
Abdoolender Esmaljee	2
M. H. Katrak	2
C. Ookerjee & Co.	2
C. Osmund	2
Baretto & Co.	2
M. H. E. Elias	2
H. A. Esmail & Co.	2
S. D. Moonshee	2
J. S. Perry	2
L. M. Alvares and Co.	2
A. Fong	2
P.	2
R. R. Bhagat and Co.	1

New rules and regulations relating to petroleum in bulk are published in the *Gazette*.

On the 25th March Major Sir John Carrington, Commandant of the Hongkong Volunteer Corps, held his parade on the Brigade Parade Ground. There was an excellent muster of officers and men and the movements were satisfactorily gone through. The annual inspection of the Corps by H.E. the Governor and Major-General Black will take place on the 8th April.

A sentence of three months' imprisonment with hard labour was passed on the 24th March on a Chinaman for demanding money by menaces. The complainant, who is a fitter, told Inspector Mann that the prisoner and another man had visited his house and wrongfully accused him and had also demanded \$20 and a dinner. Inspector Mann gave him \$5 and arranged for detectives to witness the money being handed over to the prisoner on the occasion of a second visit. The plan succeeded and the prisoner was arrested as soon as he received the money.

An Indian constable met with very rough treatment at the hands of a Chinese on Wednesday night. The constable was returned to Samshurpo after having taken a prisoner to the station when he met five men, one of whom he saw had something up his sleeve. The constable stopped this man, who threw away a tin of opium into the water, while his companions ran off. The constable told the man to get the tin out of the water, but he refused and attacked the constable, knocking him down and loosening some of his teeth. There was a struggle for twenty minutes and the Chinaman was not overcome until an Indian sergeant arrived on the scene and took him to the Police Station. On the 25th March the prisoner was fined \$50 or two months' imprisonment for being in possession of opium and sent to gaol for forty-two days for the assault.

On Sunday the Hongkong Volunteer Corps attended a church parade service at the Cathedral. The service was conducted by the Rev. R. F. Cobbold, the lessons being read by Major Sir John Carrington (Commandant of the Corps). About forty non-commissioned officers and men of the Field Battery and about a dozen and a half of the Machine Gun Company were present, together with the whole of the officers. On returning to headquarters Sir John Carrington spoke of the smart appearance of the men, but he had to regret that there was not a bigger muster; he fully expected double the number. In England the average number of inefficients in a Corps of, say, nine hundred was only nine or ten. He was anxious to see the Hongkong Corps as efficient as those Corps in England and he strongly hoped that all the men would turn up to the drills in order that the Corps might be on the same footing, in regard to efficiency, as any other Corps. We trust the men will bear these remarks in mind. The Commandant himself sets them the best example, as he is present at every drill.

A meeting of the subscribers to St. George's Ball was held at the City Hall on Tuesday (23rd March) to decide what should be done with a balance of \$1,431.70. H.E. the Governor, Sir William Robinson, presided. Mr. C. W. May submitted the accounts, which showed a balance of \$1,431.70, which included over \$300 from the previous ball. The accounts were passed. Mr. T. Sercombe Smith moved and Mr. E. W. Mitchell seconded the following resolution:—"That a sum of \$4 be returned to each subscriber, who shall be supplied with a compradore's order or that amount, that the surplus be retained for further expenses, and that the balance, after meeting such expenses be credited to the St. George's Ball banking account." Mr. N. J. Ede suggested that the surplus be devoted to the Indian Famine Fund. Mr. Mowbray Northcote thought it better to divide it amongst the local charities, such as the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals. It was pointed out that the subscribers present had no power to bind the absent subscribers as to the disposal of the money. The resolution was passed and a vote of thanks to H.E. the Governor proposed by Mr. T. Sercombe Smith was carried. The proposer mentioned the many occasions on which His Excellency had presided at the meetings and the great interest he had taken in the arrangements for the ball.

There were 2,257 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 152 were Europeans.

Messrs. John D. Humphreys & Son, General Managers of the Olivers Freshold Mines, Limited, have received a telegram which they translate as follows:—"The Eureka Mine the latest news is very good driving levels North and South the width of reef is six feet the reef shows visible gold throughout the mine. Mill starts again in a week or ten days average samples from different parts of the mine per steamer *Omi Maru*."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Canton and Macao	6,284,513	7,510,177
Shanghai and Hankow	18,410,313	21,317,405
Foochow	12,749,503	14,676,073
	37,444,332	43,503,655

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai	19,809,591	29,094,771
Amoy	19,022,415	14,665,055
Foochow	11,716,764	12,199,184
	50,548,770	55,959,010

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	22,949,123	27,240,863

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1896-97 lbs.	1895-96 lbs.
Yokohama	27,565,583	29,691,011
Kobe	14,951,219	18,622,433
	42,526,802	48,313,444

SILK.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1896-97 bales.	1895-96 bales.
Canton	21,388	15,145
Shanghai	43,755	48,665
Yokohama	16,976	18,790
	82,619	82,600

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1896-97 bales.	1895-96 bales.
Canton	3,844	9,190
Shanghai	5,084	9,251
Yokohama	17,737	21,921
	26,665	40,362

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—Under the influence of large stocks the decline in prices continues. Quotations for Formosa are nominally \$45.50 to \$47.00. Sales, 200 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—The market continues dull and prices show little alteration. Quotations are:

Shékloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.21 to 7.24 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	6.65 to 6.71 "
Shékloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.43 to 4.45 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.32 to 4.35 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.00 to 7.15 "
do. " 2, White...	6.25 to 6.28 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.35 to 4.37 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.20 to 4.25 "
Soochow Sugar Candy	10.10 to 11.05 "
Shékloong	9.43 to 9.47 "

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—Bengal.—The demand has been again dull during the last week and prices have declined. New Patna closing at \$650, Old Patna at \$673 1/2, New Benares at \$700 and Old Benares at \$700.

Malwa.—The market has ruled weak and rates have given way. Latest quotations are as under:

Now (this yr's) \$760 with allance of 41 to 51 piculs.	
do. (last yr's) \$780	
Old (2/5) \$800	
do. (6/7) \$810	
Persian.—Business has continued brisk and a further improvement in prices has taken place. Closing figures are \$650 to \$760 for Paper-wrapped, and \$500 to \$600 for Oily, according to quality. To-day's stocks are estimated as under:	
New Patna	1,407 chests.
Old Patna	1,000 "
New Benares	220 "
Old Benares	68 "
Malwa	300 "
Persian	90 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1897.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Mar. 25	656 1/2	677 1/2	667 1/2	700	760	810
Mar. 26	657 1/2	678 1/2	677 1/2	700	760	810
Mar. 27	658 1/2	679 1/2	677 1/2	700	760	810
Mar. 28	656 1/2	678 1/2	677 1/2	700	760	810
Mar. 29	650	676 1/2	673 1/2	700	760	810
Mar. 30	650	665	673 1/2	700	760	810

RICE.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—A further decline in prices has to be reported. Quotations are:

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.20 to 2.21
do. Round, good quality	2.50 to 2.52
do. Long	2.41 to 2.43
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.43 to 2.46
do. Garden, " No. 1	2.62 to 2.68
do. White	3.21 to 3.23
do. Fine Cargo	3.32 to 3.34

COALS.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—Market quiet. Quotations are:

Cardiff	to 16.50 ex godown, nom.
Australian	\$6.75 to 8.00 ex ship.
Milke Lump	6.50 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small	to none offering
Moji Lump	6.75 to 8.00 ex ship, firm

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 30th March.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—455 bales No. 10 at \$82 to \$87.50, 495 bales No. 12 at \$83 to \$89, 305 bales No. 16 at \$89 to \$97, 180 bales No. 20 at \$91.50 to \$96. *Grey Shirtings*.—500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.70, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$3.80, 300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red 7 Boys at \$2.50, 990 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. 3 Dogs at \$2.95, 1,050 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Lion at \$1.92 1/2, 300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Red Cock at \$2.50, 600 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Blue Cook at \$2.57 1/2, 300 pieces 8 1/2 lbs. Double Fish at \$2.70, 250 pieces 10 lbs. Blue Triangle at \$3.65. *White Shirtings*.—250 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.72 1/2, 500 pieces X-9 at \$4.47 1/2, 450 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.92 1/2, 300 pieces N-1 at \$5.72 1/2, 500 pieces No. 3,000 at \$4.85, 250 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.25, 750 pieces Flower at \$4.67 1/2. *Victoria Lawns*.—1,200 pieces Brown Stag at \$0.63. *T-Cloths*.—750 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Red Stag at \$2.32 1/2, 1,120 pieces 7 lbs. Silver Lion No. 2 at \$1.80, 1,875 pieces 7 lbs. Blue Dragon B. B. at \$2.17 1/2, 500 pieces 8 lbs. Red Stag at \$2.67 1/2, 300 pieces 8 lbs. Hunter and Stag at \$3.10, 375 pieces 7 lbs. Mexican Gold Dragon at \$2.22 1/2. *Metals*.—Iron.—240 piculs iron sheetings at \$5.10. *Yellow Metals*.—90 cases new 10/14 oz. at \$22.50.

COTTON YARN.

Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$76.00 to 115.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	105.00 to 110.00
do. " 22 to 24	110.00 to 115.00
do. " 28 to 32	119.00 to 125.00
do. " 36 to 42	128.00 to 138.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	1.50 to 1.60
do. 7 lbs.	1.90 to 2.05
do. 8 1/2 lbs.	2.25 to 2.35
do. 9 to 10 lbs.	3.00 to 3.20
White Shirtings—4 1/2 to 6 1/2 lb.	2.15 to 2.25
do. 6 1/2 to 8 lb.	2.50 to 2.60
do. 8 1/2 to 10 lb.	3.00 to 3.10
do. Fine	3.90 to 4.20
Book-folds	4.50 to 5.40

Victor's Lawns—12 yards	0.60 to 1.25
10 1/2 lbs.—8 lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y	1.40 to 1.55
7 lbs. (32 in.)	1.80 to 2.05
6 lbs. (32 in.) Mexs.	1.80 to 1.75
7 lbs. (32 in.)	2.10 to 2.50
8 to 8 1/2 lbs. (36 in.)	2.30 to 3.10
Drills, English—40 yds. 1 1/2 to 1 1/4	4.00 to 5.00
14 lbs.	
PANCY COTTONS	
Turkey Red Shirtings—11 to 12	1.20 to 3.50
5 lbs.	
Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to 4.50
	per yard
Damasks	0.11 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	0.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black 22 in.	0.21 to 0.23
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.20
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.40 to 0.85
WOOLLENS	
	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops	0.55 to 0.95
Gorman	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.25 to 3.50
	per piece
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.50 to 8.00
Assorted	6.60 to 8.10
Camlets—Assorted	18.00 to 27.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	10.00 to 18.00
Orleans—Plain	3.00 to 3.60
	per pair
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs.	4.80 to 9.50
METALS	
	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	3.55 to 3.60
Square, Flat Round Bar	3.75 to 3.80
Swedish Bar	— to —
Small Round Rod	— to —
Hoop	— to —
Old Wire Rope	— to —
Leaf, L. B. and Hole Chop	7.60 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	33.00 to —
Vivian's, 16/32 oz.	28.50 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	28.25 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	— to —
Tiles	— to —
Tin	— to —
	per box
Tin-Plates	5.80 to 5.95
	per cwt. case
Steel	5.60 to —
SUNDRIES	
	per picul
Quicksilver	125.00 to —
	per box
Window Glass	3.85 to —
	per 10-gal. case
Kerosene Oil	1.87 to —

CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

TUESDAY, 30th March.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/0 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/0 1/2
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.53
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.57
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	2.05
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	49 1/2
Credits, 60 days' sight	50 1/2
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	159 1/2
Bank, on demand	160
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	159 1/2
Bank, on demand	160
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	72 1/2
Private, 30 days' sight	72 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	1 1/2 pm.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	9% pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	1 1/2 pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	9.78
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	49.75

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, March 30th.—But little business has been transacted in the market and few movements of any importance have taken place.

Rates, however, appear to have somewhat steadied and the weakness reported for the last few weeks to have abated. The approaching settlements appear to be fairly well arranged for and notwithstanding rumours to the contrary no trouble of any importance need be anticipated.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have remained very quiet with small sales at 165 per cent. prem., buyers, however, at time of writing are not plentiful and it is doubtful whether any more could be placed at the same rate; no time transactions have been reported and the market closes quiet, the London rate remaining at £39. Nationals and Bank of China have been on offer at quotations without leading to business.

MARINE INSURANCE.—The market has been dull and beyond a few local sales of China Traders at \$79 and \$79 1/2, Unions at \$235, and Straits at \$19 and \$19 1/2, there is nothing to report. In the North, Yangtzes and North Chinas have changed hands at quotations.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Have ruled very quiet, with small sales of China Fires at \$102, and of Hongkongs at \$360, both stocks closing quiet with sellers at quotations.

SHIPPING.—All stocks have ruled quiet to dull with not much business. Hongkong, Canton and Macao found buyers at \$34 1/2 and close with further sellers at that rate. Douglases appear to have dropped out of the market, sellers vainly offering to part at \$60 without finding buyers. Indo-Chinas after ruling quiet for the early part of the week at \$46 with sales, gradually improved to \$47, at which rate a fair number changed hands. China Manilas and China Mutuels continue neglected. The latter Company has declared a final dividend of 3 per cent. on preference and 6 per cent. on ordinary shares payable to-morrow.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands in fair lots at \$141 cum. div., and at \$135 ex div. for cash, the market closing weakish with sellers for cash and forward at equivalent rates. Luzons have found small buyers and could probably be placed further at \$40 and \$41, whilst sales for June at \$43 are reported. The chairman's speeches at the yearly meeting of both Companies as reported in the local papers of the 27th instant will prove of interest to shareholders.

MINING.—The market has been dull and without any special features. Punjoms have improved a little on receipt of better news from the mine and have changed hands at \$5 and \$5.50, closing steady at \$5.25. Raubs have ruled somewhat erratic, with both buyers and sellers "on the fence" until after the issue of the unallotted shares. Small sales only have been effected at \$13.75, market closing steady at that rate. Olivers advanced to \$18 for A. and to \$8 for B. shares, closing a little easier at \$17 1/2 and \$7. Charbonnages could be placed in small lots at \$75. Holders of Olivers should note that if desirous they can obtain 7 new B. shares at par (2 1/2) for every 50 or proportion of 50 A. or B. shares they at present hold, by applying to the General Managers before 7th proximo. This issue appertains to 10,000 unallotted shares which are now to be distributed to present shareholders on the register and to the employees of the mines.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been the medium of a fair business during the week at 244 per cent. prem. and later at 243 for cash and at equivalent rates on time, although heavy settlements have somewhat impeded business; at time of closing rates seem inclined to rise and market closes steady. Kowloon Wharves have ruled firm with buyers and sales at \$61 and \$61 1/2, closing steady. Wanchai Warehouses have changed hands at \$43 1/2. New Amoy Docks have advanced to \$20 with sales, upon the issue of a good report which recommends payment of a div. of 14 per cent. (\$1.40) per share, writing off \$10,000 and carrying forward \$2,204.17.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have continued steady with small sales at \$77 and \$77 1/2, shares, however, are obtainable at the latter rate. Humphreys Estates and Kowloon Lands are more or less neglected at quotations. Hotels are still enquired for at \$35 to \$36 for cash and at equivalent rates

forward without leading to business. West Point continues quiet at quotation.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands continue steady with small sales at \$25 1/2. Watsons have changed hands in fair lots at \$12 1/2 and sales still in demand. Ropes after sales at \$155 and \$154 have declined to \$152, and Electric have found further buyers at \$7.75. Other stocks under this heading have been quiet and neglected at quotations.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks.		[£331.25] sales
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	165% prem.—
China & Japan, prf.	25	nominal
Do. ordinary	\$1.10s	nominal
Do. deferred	21	25% buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	23	\$24, sellers
Founders Shares	21	\$100, sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	21	\$9, sellers
Brown & Co., H. G.	50	(in liquidation).
Campbell, Moore & Co.	10	\$3, sellers
Carmichael & Co.	20	\$3
China Sugar	\$100	\$135, ex div. sellers
Dakin, Cruick & Co.	5	(in liquidation).
Dairy Farm Co.	5	\$5, nominal
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	25	\$30, sellers
Green Island Cement	10	\$25.25, sal. & sellers
H. & China Bakery	50	\$30
Hongkong & C. Gas	210	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Electric	3	\$7.75
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$95, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	50	\$36, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	25	\$109, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	50	\$61 1/2, sales & sellers
Hongkong Rope	50	\$152, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$125	243 p. c. prem.—
Insurance.		[£423.75] sales
Canton	50	\$187 1/2, sellers
China Fire	20	\$102, sales
China Traders	25	\$79, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	50	\$360, sellers
North-China	225	Tls. 195, sellers
Straits	20	\$19 1/2, ex div. sal. &
Union	25	\$232 1/2, [sellers]
Yangtze	60	\$164, buyers
Land and Building.		
H. Land Investment	50	\$77, buyers
Humphreys Estate	10	\$3.75, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	30	\$16
West Point Building	40	\$19.75, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$41, sales & sellers
Mining.		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$75, buyers
Jelebu	5	\$2.40, sales & sellers
New Balmoral	1	\$2, buyers
Do. Preference	1	\$2.40, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	5	\$17 1/2, sales
Do. B.	2 1/2	\$7, sales & sellers
Punjom	4	\$5 1/2, sales & buyers
Do. Preference	1	\$1.00, sales
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$13.75, sellers
Steamship Coys.		
China and Manila	50	\$70, sales & sellers
China Mutual Ord.	25	\$2.10s.
Do. Preference	210	26
Douglas S. S. Co.	50	\$60, sellers
H. Canton and M.	15	\$34 1/2, sales & sellers
Indo-China S. N.	210	\$47, sales
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37 1/2	\$43 1/2, sales
Watson & Co., A. S.	10	\$12 1/2, sal. & buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Ceylon (str.), Lion (str.), Kin-shiu Maru (str.), Rosetta (str.), Candia (str.), Oolong (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—Guadalquivir (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—Empress of China (str.).
For TACOMA.—Olympia (str.).
For HAVRE.—Cewrie (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—China, Doric (str.), Falls of Dee.
For VICTORIA.—Chittagong (str.).
For NEW YORK.—Bronshtine (str.), Macduff (str.).
For AUSTRALIA.—Guthrie (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

March.	ARRIVALS.
25.	Haimun, British str. from Tamsui.
25.	Esmeralda, British str. from Manila.
25.	Asloun, British str. from New York.
25.	Chansang, British str. from Probolinggo.
25.	Chelydra, British str. from Cebu.
25.	Kong-Beng, British str. from Bangkok.

25. Hertha, German str., from Hamburg.
 26. Benlarig, British str., from London.
 26. Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
 26. Carrier Dove, Amr. sch., from Portland.
 26. Congo, Spanish sch., from Manila.
 26. Bengloe, British str., from Bangkok.
 26. Kweiyang, British str., from Tientsin.
 26. Jintu Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
 27. Phra C. C. Kiao, Brit. str., from Bangkok.
 27. Strathallan, British str., from Canton.
 27. Chingping, Chinese str., from Canton.
 27. Peiyang, German str., from Moji.
 27. Benvenue, British str., from Moji.
 27. Chittagong, British str., from Portland.
 27. Hinsang, British str., from Saigon.
 27. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 27. Grafton, British cruiser, from Manila.
 28. Kintuck, British str., from Liverpool.
 28. Yangtse, French str., from Marseilles.
 29. Namoa, British str., from Swatow.
 29. Taisang, British str., from Canton.
 29. Hailong, British str., from Coast Ports.
 29. Hohenzollern, German str., from Y'hama.
 29. Changsha, British str., from Sydney.
 29. China, German str., from Saigon.
 29. Hunan, British str., from Singapore.
 29. Wakanoura Maru, Jap. str., from Seattle.
 29. Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.
 29. J. Diedrichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 29. Frejr, Danish str., from Haiphong.
 29. Sishan, British str., from Saigon.
 29. Bisagno, Italian str., from Bombay.
 29. Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.
 29. Sachsen, German str., from Shanghai.
 30. Lyeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 30. Thales, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 30. Loksang, British str., from Chefoo.
 30. Cometa, French gunboat, from Haiphong.
 30. Kinshin Maru, Jap. str., from Kobe.
 30. Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 30. Paoting, British str., from Saigon.
 30. Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
 30. Olympia, British str., from Tacoma.

March—

DEPARTURES.

25. Cosmopolit, German str., for Touron.
 25. Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
 25. Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 25. Machias, American cruiser, for Korea.
 25. Kaiser-i-Hind, British str., for Europe.
 25. Nampong, British str., for Amoy.
 25. Rio, German str., for Amoy.
 25. Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Foochow.
 26. Menmuir, British str., for Australia.
 26. Asloun, British str., for Shanghai.
 26. Maria Rickmers, German str., for Saigon.
 26. Tam O'Shanter, Amr. bk., for Manila.
 26. Kansu, British str., for Foochow.
 26. Namoa, British str., for Coast Ports.
 26. Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
 26. Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
 26. Machew, British str., for Bangkok.
 26. Tokio Maru, Jap. str., for Australia.
 27. Triumph, German str., for Hoihow.
 27. Bylgia, German bark, for Takao.
 27. Taisang, British str., for Canton.
 27. Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
 27. Boynton, British str., for Bangkok.
 27. Doris, German str., for Chefoo.
 27. Germania, German str., for Saigon.
 27. Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
 28. Benlarig, British str., for Kobe.
 28. Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 28. Haiman, British str., for Swatow.
 28. Irene, German str., for Hamburg.
 28. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 28. Strathallan, British str., for Hongay.
 28. Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 29. Chingping, Chinese str., for Tientsin.
 29. Wuotan, German str., for Kutchinotai.
 29. Yangtse, French str., for Shanghai.
 30. Hertha, German str., for Yokohama.
 30. Kintuck, British str., for Shanghai.
 30. Kong Beng, British str., for Bangkok.
 30. Sachsen, German str., for Europe.
 30. Taisang, British str., for Shanghai.
 30. Hailong, British str., for Swatow.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Haitan*, str., from Coast Ports—Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Messrs. Rogers, Slade, Entwistle, and Neilson, Captains Burney, Price, and Lush.
 Per *Haimun*, steamer, from Tamsui &c.—Messrs. Bona Inn and Orange.
 Per *Esmeralda*, str., from Manila—Mrs. C. Atayde, Miss R. Guevara, Miss A. Toquira,

Mr. L. Atayde, Capt. O. Nakao, J.N., Messrs. Ch. Young, L. Lerma, G. Lerma, S. Lerma, A. La Puente, Dr. G. Triner, Messrs. R. L. Furlonge and F. F. Bishop.

Per *Chelydra*, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Mrs. Ewario, and Mr. Coe.

Per *Hertha*, str., from Hamburg, &c.—Capt. Wendt, Messrs. Stampf and Lenbold, Mr. and Mrs. Rottspath, Mr. and Mrs. Haas and child, Mr. Wuppner.

Per *Phra C. C. Kiao*, str., from Bangkok.—Mr. Rockcroft.

Per *Hailong*, str., from Coast Ports.—Mr. and Mrs. Haesloop and family, Mr. E. H. Grimani, Mr. and Mrs. Wong Hok Sin, Mr. Chang Hong Shing.

Per *Hohenzollern*, str., from Yokohama—Consul and Mrs. Müllerbeck, Messrs. T. Stühlen and M. Schwarz, Capt. Lee Marohke, Mrs. Edmunds, and children, Miss Britson, Messrs. Wallis and Carlsen, Rev. and Mrs. Hind, and Miss Nott.

Per *Namoa*, str., from Swatow—Misses Barron and Fowler.

Per *Changsha*, str., from Australia—Mr. and Mrs. Whitely, Miss Whitely, Mr. and Mrs. Goldsmith, Misses Dunn (2), Mr. and Mrs. Gantier, Mr. and Mrs. Morton, Mrs. Jamieson, Miss Copsey, Messrs. Barley, Broad, Peech, Ivo Poinsel Marcks, and Hazid.

Per *Yangtse*, str., for Hongkong from Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Armsfield, Mr. and Mrs. Joret, Messrs. Jackson, Slade, Hebden, Cameron, and Touzalin. From Singapore—Messrs. Whitthoeffet and Witheline, Mr. and Mrs. Layton, Mr. MaoBain, Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez, Miss Carvalho, Mr. and Mrs. Cochrane, Mr. and Mrs. Thoo Koon, Messrs. Faublaum, French, Soomi, and Etoh. For Saigon—Messrs. Belard, Gillespie, Wilkin, Meiklo, and Andersen. For Shanghai from Colombo—H.E. Taotai Meizo, Mr. and Mrs. Kerr, Messrs. Pasquier, Porter, and Kruger. For Kobe from Colombo—Mr. Davy. From Singapore—Mr. Makagava, Mr. and Mrs. Amasa. For Yokohama from Colombo—Mr. Neresheimer, Mr. and Mrs. Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. Galy, Messrs. J. Colomb and Surraya, Miss Jardyne, Mr. Minobe, Mr. and Mrs. Barrons. From Singapore—Mr. Evening. For Yokohama from Singapore—Mr. Shibuya, Mr. and Mrs. Yebihara, Mr. Wogg. From Saigon—Messrs. Gilbert, Dumoulin, and Mrs. D'Autun.

Per *Sishan*, str., from Saigon—Mr. Pellicer.
 Per *Bisagno*, str., from Bombay, &c.—Capt. Hooks.

Per *Jacob Diederichsen*, str., from Haiphong, &c.—Mr. Chanvassignes, Sister St. Paul, Mrs. Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Freynet, Mr. Gaubert.

Per *Sachsen*, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Messrs. T. Sasa and Fuzimura. For Genoa—Mrs. Buchheister, Miss Struss, Mrs. Garrels and daughter, Mrs. Bender, Mrs. Kupper and children. For Southampton—Miss Atherley, Mrs. Wrightson, Dr. Frazer and family, Mrs. Probst and child, Mr. Troen Ayman and family, Mrs. Hards, Mr. Wilson and family, Mr. Tuck, Miss Dobson, Dr. Doutewaite and children. For Bremen—Mr. A. P. Madsen, Mrs. Schneider, Miss Supmer, Mrs. Ruhstrat and family.

DEPARTED.

Per *Kaiser-i-Hind*, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. W. M. Thompson, R.N., Dr. Longeway, Messrs. R. J. L. Wright and A. J. Easton. For Bombay—Miss Carry B. Bates and Mr. O. Meyer. For Sydney—Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Campbell. For Brindisi—Messrs. D. R. Sassoon, Ezekiel, and Kelly. For London—Messrs. T. S. Hardenbrook, H. Binley, Mr. and Mrs. A. McIver and 3 children, Mr. W. Robertson and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Watson and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell, Mrs. Graham, Messrs. W. G. Warnock, T. Moffat, and J. Sinclair. From Yokohama for London—Mr. B. Boucher. From Shanghai for Singapore—Messrs. V. Murray and Fritz. For London—Messrs. W. H. Marks and Bradbury.

Per *Haitan*, str., for Swatow—Mr. J. M. Foster. For Foochow—Messrs. Odell, Knudsen, F. E. Jackson, and Lam Ping Fe.

Per *Namoa*, str., for Swatow—Messrs. Fong and Ng.

Per *Tokio Maru*, str., for Sydney, &c.—Mr. and Mrs. Foy, Mr. and Mrs. Mackay and child, Mr. and Mrs. Smith and 2 children, Messrs. A. G. Hillyard and Langfield.

Per *Verona*, str., from Hongkong for Nagasaki—Admiral Jirita, Commander O. Nakao, Messrs. S. Takan and H. Watanabe. For Kobe—Lord Camden, Mr. Hay, Mrs. Tori Imai, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Spencer, Miss Onativia, Miss Bockel, and Mrs. Swaine. For Yokohama—Mon. O. de la Rosiere, Messrs. M. Davis, A. Bevington, C. B. Humphreys, Miss Anna Humphreys, Mrs. A. J. Lewis, Messrs. R. Tichborne Hinkes and T. A. Dawes. For Nagasaki from London—Rev. Bridle. For Yokohama from London—Messrs. V. J. Boland and Crowe, Mr. and Mrs. Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Mander, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Abell, and Miss Henderson. From Marseilles—Mr. and Mrs. P. Woods. From Gibraltar—Mr. and Mrs. Cook, and Miss Smith. From Brindisi—Dr. Otto Seitz. From Melbourne—Mr. and Mrs. G. Smith. From Ismailia—Mr. Twyford, Mrs. Frombly, Mrs. M. Flavell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frombly, Messrs. Shoemaker and Kiss. From Colombo—Mr. Bristowe. From Calcutta—Misses Royle and Pears. From Singapore—Rev. A. Bunker, Misses Pettey and Simons.

Per *Yangtse*, str., for Shanghai—Messrs. R. S. Furlonge, J. Gaunt, F. C. Durbig, A. R. Madar, G. McBain, and R. Smith. For Kobe—Messrs. T. Uyeki and Cheong Hieun Ghee. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Ferron, Mr. and Mrs. Foret, Miss Rowe, Messrs. G. Verschnur, G. de Dumast, and H. Foy.

Per *Esmeralda*, str., for Manila—Messrs. A. MacCarville, S. Sugimoto, S. Sakamoto, Jose Marino Lacalle, A. C. Paddy, and H. D. Hawks.

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S SHIPS
IN THE CHINA SQUADRON.

Alacrity, despatch-boat, 10 guns, 3,000 h.p., Capt. Smith-Dorrien, at Hongkong.
Archer, cruiser, 14 guns, 3,500 h.p., Comd. O. E. Kingmill, at Manila.
Centurion, flagship, 41 guns, 13,000 h.p., Capt. S. H. Login, at Hongkong.
Daphne, sloop, 14 guns, 2,000 h.p., Com. MacArthur, at Manila.
Esk, gun-vessel, 3 guns, 340 h.p., Lieut.-Com. H. P. Barton, at Ichang.
Firebrand, gun-vessel, 6 guns, 360 h.p., Lieut.-Com. V. Maud, at Hongkong.
Grafton, protected cruiser, 36 guns, 7,350 h.p., Capt. E. P. Jones, at Hongkong.
Handy, torpedo-boat destroyer, 6 guns, 4,000 h.p., Lieut. A. Gillespie, at Hongkong.
Hart, torpedo-boat destroyer, 6 guns, 4,000 h.p., Lieut. H. F. Shakespear, at Hongkong.
Humber, storeship, Capt. Frank W. Wyley, at Hongkong.
Immortalité, armoured cruiser, 34 guns, 8,500 h.p., Capt. Ed. Chichester, at Nagasaki.
Iphigenia, cruiser, 17 guns, 9,000 h.p., Capt. H. T. Dudding, at Singapore.
Linnet, gun-vessel, 6 guns, 870 h.p., Com. R. C. Sparkes, at Tientsin.
Narcissus, armoured cruiser, 34 guns, 8,500 h.p., Capt. W. C. C. Forsyth, at Nagasaki.
Peacock, gunboat, 8 guns, 1,200 h.p., Lieut. Com. St. John, at Nagasaki.
Pigmy, gunboat, 8 guns, 1,200 h.p., Lieut. Com. C. J. T. Dormer, at Singapore.
Pique, cruiser, 22 guns, 7,000 h.p., Capt. A. C. Corry, at Singapore.
Plover, gunboat, 9 guns, 1,200 h.p., Lieut. Com. De Horsey, at Shanghai.
Rainbow, cruiser, 12 guns, 7,000 h.p., Capt. W. C. C. Forsyth, at Singapore.
Rattler, gunboat, 8 guns, 1,200 h.p., Lieut. Hon. G. A. Hardinge, at Hongkong.
Redpole, gunboat, 8 guns, 1,200 h.p., Lieut. Com. E. H. Grafton, at Hankow.
Solent, torpedo mining launch, at Hongkong.
Swift, gunboat, 8 guns, 870 h.p., Capt. McAlpine, at Hongkong.
Tweed, gun-vessel, 3 guns, 340 h.p., at Hongkong.
Undaunted, armoured cruiser, 34 guns, 8,500 h.p., Capt. Hallifax, at Nagasaki.
Victor Emmanuel, receiving ship, 20 guns, Com. modore Holland, at Hongkong.
Wivern, coast defence ship, armoured, 10 guns, 1,000 h.p., at Hongkong.

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